

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



PICTURE BY J. B. BROWN
PITCHFORK, WYO.

THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK MONTHLY

MARCH 1943

FIGHTING WITH FOOD

One of our leaders has said:

"This is a war in which all of us must fight side by side, civilians and military, men and women, Russians, British, Chinese."

And every grower and feeder of livestock is also a fighter—a mighty important fighter, too. Yes, your farm may not be producing bullets or bombs, but it's producing FOOD—an absolute essential in the winning of any war.

And if you want to make sure that your food will go where it is most needed, ship to a Central Market where buyers representing packers from the Pacific to the Atlantic will bid competitively on your livestock, assuring you of favorable cash prices, and placing the right numbers of the right kind at the right place at the right time.

***The Best and Quickest Way from the Ranch or Feed Lot
to the Front Is Through the Central Markets***

SHIP TO THE

**KANSAS
CITY**



DENVER

Union Stock Yard Companies

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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WARTIME PROBLEMS OF THE RANGE

By C. E. FAVRE

FINDING A PLACE TO PASTURE A few head of cattle yearlong or to provide part pasture and part hay is a real task nowadays with present shortage of help, but it is a superman's task to provide good fattening feed for thousands of head under these conditions. Thus the western stockman, who is generally a relatively large owner, is taxing his brain and muscle to bring about maximum production. The drought of a few years back and early handling practices have not helped the problem in many sections.

Recognizing these difficulties and trying to do something about them is an additional responsibility. This the stockmen generally are trying to meet through intelligent management.

Some stockmen are leading the way in the trend for ample good-quality feed, realizing that problems of the range are much easier if the stock have ample feed and are therefore contented. Losses from poison, straying, etc., are always less. Ample range will therefore help with the present labor problem. An important livestock banker recently said, "The smart stockman is adjusting herds and range so as to provide his stock with ample feed in any kind of year. It's good insurance." The spirit has really taken hold of the West. Stockmen, bankers, experiment stations, agricultural agencies, and colleges are actively encouraging the production of more meat per animal through more feed. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Grover B. Hill phrased the general thought at a recent convention when he said "Keep more grass than cows."

Some of the stockmen have made progress in spite of trying circumstances. The spring feed bottleneck in Utah and similar country is being broken by artificial revegetation. The summer supply is being improved by better handling with riders and fences. Natural revegetation is still the mainstay in rebuilding ranges, although lots of improvement on especially depleted units has been brought about by artificial reseeding.

An example of strong management with a will to survive and prosper in spite of these trying times is well brought out in the J. A. Scorup outfit operating on the range of the San Juan country in southeastern Utah. Mr. Scorup is, by the way, a member of the executive committee of the American National Live Stock Association. With

only a few of his old-timers and a few school boys, they seem to manage well. Mr. Scorup himself still finds time to ride and consider his various range problems on the La Sal National Forest. Naturally range improvement demands much of his time, and this phase of his operation is receiving his attention right out on the ground. Often he and the ranger meet on the range either for short discussions or for a few days' trip. Here the common problem of ample feed is threshed out and range management practices decided upon: What areas may be deferred for natural revegetation; what units will be reseeded (and Mr.



Joshua Flat, favorite cattle congregating place devoid of good forage in 1938. It was reseeded that fall to smooth brome and bulbous bluegrass. It now supports one cow-month per acre after vegetation has gone to seed.



J. A. Scorup co-operates in reseeding of worn-out parts of his range and takes pride in results. Mr. Scorup sits at left on his favorite saddle horse.



Cowboys appreciate good range. This is smooth brome and crested wheat grass planting on Scorp range.

Scorp is contributing both moral and financial aid to artificial reseeding; opening dates for various units; salting; distribution; etc.

In keeping with this policy, about three years ago changes were made on two of Mr. Scorp's allotments; namely, the Indian Creek and Cottonwood Creek units, where he grazes some 2,500 head. These provided for adjustments of numbers and periods of grazing and fence construction to assist in controlling stock. On account of the changes, where a few years ago there was no reproduction of aspen and shrubs or grass, now there are palatable browse species, including aspen. These species have naturally revegetated. On favorable sites, grass, particularly bluestem, is showing much improvement. In discussing the situation, Mr. Scorp explained that in early days "it was a bluestem country." The showing is encouraging almost everywhere that reasonable protection is given. Cattle on this range are inclined to congregate on favorite areas, such as streams, valleys, and meadows, often remaining on such units long after good feed is gone while rougher, less desirable units may have feed to spare. Thus the favorite haunts of cattle are often too heavily grazed and the stock do not get a full ration of forage. Consequently there is damage to both stock and range. Unless deferred grazing can be practiced to prevent this kind of utilization, stock is bound to lose flesh and the range deteriorate, all of which will eventually require that the grazing capacity be limited to the actual area being used. To meet this situation a series of division fences in natural strategic locations is planned so as periodically to rest these favorite areas, thus giving them a chance to reseed naturally and recuperate and more or less force the use of more lightly grazed units.

On areas already divided, the fences are also helping to protect units that required artificial reseeding. Smooth brome, mountain brome, and crested wheat were sown. These, together with the natural spread of native bluestem,

have increased the grazing capacity on one relatively small area from about one cow per six to eight acres per month to one cow per acre per month. On another area where smooth brome and bulbous bluegrass were sown the actual forage production was raised from about one cow-month per ten acres to about one cow-month per acre. In the latter case the unit was grazed after seed maturity. Thus ample feed is resulting even within a few years after seed was sown and is valuable to the operator both in helping him produce more in this emergency and in helping to make handling problems easier.

It is recognized that only a start in the rehabilitation program has been made, but a way out of a difficult feeding and handling job has been indicated. Of course, natural revegetation is much the best and cheapest means of rehabilitating this range. Some of it is rundown and needs a rest, particularly in the early growing period. It generally will recover quite rapidly under favorable growing conditions and use except on a few areas where the erosion has already gone too far. Hence it is desirable to try out the natural means first. If this fails, however, further action is planned to provide artificial revegetation of depleted units having good possibilities.

The combination of artificially revegetating special spots together with the resting of overused units and more complete utilization of outlying areas should bring maximum values to both the livestock and range as well as ease the physical management problems of the outfit.

LIVESTOCK INCREASES

A SHARP INCREASE IN HOGS and cattle brought the number of livestock on farms on January 1, 1943, to a new all-time record, the government's annual livestock inventory showed. Cattle numbered over 78,000,000 head.

The hog and cattle increase more than

offset a reduction in sheep, horses, and mules. In terms of animal units, the January 1 number was 5 per cent larger than a year earlier and 11 per cent above the ten-year average. This increase was accompanied by sharp increases in the value per head of all species, with a resulting inventory value of livestock on farms much higher than in any previous year.

When the numbers of species are converted to an animal unit basis, which allows for differences in size and feed requirements, the increase is about 5 per cent; in terms of grain-consuming animal units, the increase was about 11 per cent; and in terms of hay and pasture units, the increase was about 2 per cent.

This record number of livestock is to considerable extent the result of a record supply of grain and hay this season after five years of abundant supplies. Production of feed grains and production of hay in 1942 were the largest of all years, and carryover stocks were large. As of January 1, farm supplies of feed grain per animal unit of livestock (including chickens) were the largest in twenty years and 3 per cent above the five-year average. This season's supply of hay per hay-consuming unit was the second largest in more than twenty years, and 6 per cent above the five-year average.

Hogs Increase Most

The increase in hog numbers was the largest, and the percentage increase of 22 was the second largest on record. The increases for pigs under six months old and for sows and gilts for spring farrow were somewhat larger than the increase for other hogs over six months. With the large number of hogs on farms January 1—73,660,000 head—and a large increase in the 1943 spring pig crop in prospect, the slaughter supplies in 1943 will be much above the record supplies of 1942.

The upward swing in the cycle of cattle numbers continued through 1942 and carried the total of all cattle on farms to a new high of 78,170,000 head—over 3,000,000 head larger than the previous record. The numbers of all classes and ages of cattle increased with milk-cow numbers up about 2 per cent.

The number of all sheep on farms decreased during the year from the record number on January 1, 1942, after advancing continuously for five years. The number of stock sheep decreased about 3 per cent to 48,308,000 head. The number of sheep and lambs on feed decreased about 2 per cent, to 6,781,000 head.

The downward trend of numbers of horses and mules continued through 1942, with each class down between 2 and 3 per cent. There was a rather sharp drop in the numbers of both horse and mule colts raised in 1942 from a year earlier, the number of horse colts being the smallest in twenty-four years.

The total inventory value of livestock on farms made a record increase during 1942, with numbers up and value per head of all species substantially higher than a year earlier. The total value of \$8,886,112,000 was larger than a year earlier by \$2,263,000,000, or 34 per cent.

Values Up Sharply

The value per head of each species was up sharply from a year earlier, with cattle and hogs the highest for all years but with sheep values below the record high of the World War I period. The value per head of horses was still substantially below the level of 1910-19, but mule values were exceeded in only four other years and were above the average of 1910-19.

Cattle numbers were above a year earlier in all but seven states; hog numbers were up in all but one state. Cattle numbers on January 1 were at record highs in twenty-two states and hogs in sixteen states. Stock sheep numbers were down in all but two of the thirteen western sheep states, and also in seven of the eleven north-central native sheep states. Horse numbers were down in most of the northern and western states. Mule numbers were down in nearly all of the states where they are important.

The estimated number of horses, including colts, on farms January 1, was 9,678,000. Most of the decrease was in colts under two years. The value per head of all horses and colts—\$79.97—was up \$15.23 from a year earlier. The total value this year is \$773,917,000 compared with \$641,520,000 January 1, 1942—the lowest in over forty years.

A further decline in numbers of mules in 1942 brought the total on January 1 to 3,712,000. The number of mule colts raised declined again in 1942 after increasing from 1933 to 1940. The value per head is \$127.46 compared with \$107.51 a year earlier and the total value of \$473,118,000 was up about \$63,000.

Cattle

The number of cattle is estimated at 78,170,000—an increase of 3,008,000 head over January 1, 1942. This number is the largest on record and exceeds the cattle number cycle peak in 1918 by over 5,000,000 head and the 1934 peak by nearly 4,000,000 head. Compared with January 1, 1942, there is an increase of 946,000 head in the number of milk cattle—cows, heifers, and heifer calves—and of 2,062,000 in other cattle. The average value per head of all cattle—\$69.66—is up \$14.58 from a year earlier and is the highest value ever reported. The total value of all cattle—\$5,445,098,000—is up \$1,305,000,000 from a year earlier and is the largest on record.

The increase in numbers of milk cows (cows and heifers two years old and over kept for milk) during 1942 was relatively less than in all cattle. The estimated number of 26,946,000 head

January 1 is 548,000 head larger than a year earlier. The number of yearling heifers kept for milk cows is 5,931,000 head—an increase of 85,000. Heifer calves kept for milk cows—6,881,000—are up 313,000 head and is the largest on record. The value per head of milk cows is \$99.61—up \$21.72 from a year earlier and the highest value on record.

Hogs

An all-time record of 73,660,000 hogs on farms January 1 is estimated for 1943. This number is 13,283,000 head larger than a year earlier and is 4,356,000 head above the previous record of 1923. The average value per head this year of \$22.54 is up \$6.92 from a year earlier and is the highest ever reported. The total value of \$1,660,652,000 is up about \$717,000,000 from a year earlier and exceeds the previous record value of 1919 by about \$235,000,000.

Sheep

The estimated number of stock sheep of 48,308,000 head is 1,499,000 below a year earlier, and the number of sheep and lambs on feed for market is down from 6,928,000 to 6,781,000. The largest part of the decrease in stock sheep is in ewe lambs kept for breeding ewes. The average value per head of all sheep on January 1 was \$9.68—an increase of \$1.07 from a year earlier and the highest since 1929. The total value of all sheep of \$533,327,000 is up \$45,000,000 from a year earlier, the highest value of all years.

A JUNIOR'S LETTER

JUNIOR STOCKMEN ARE NOT JUST
kids on the ranch. They are the fighters in the biggest of wars and supporters on the home front.

One of them, Roger Stiles, president of the Northern Arizona Junior Cattle Growers' Association, wrote recently "singing check for \$100 which could not, in our opinion, be used to better advantage."

He wanted to be present at the American National Live Stock Association

meeting in Denver, but time did not permit. He reported on the convention of his own organization.

"We had our meeting and election of new officers on January 23, followed by a steak supper for all juniors, their families, and their friends. After this a big old-time dance was enjoyed by all. We would have liked to have had our meeting in conjunction with the seniors, meeting on the thirtieth, but Normal Randall, Billy Wyrick, and I have enlisted in the Navy and are expecting a call to report for training any day.

"The new officers are as follows: Don Reese, Chambers, president; Van Hutchinson, Holbrook, vice-president; Fern Randall, Holbrook, secretary; and Johnnie Jones, Holbrook, treasurer."

Presenting the \$100 check, he said, "makes us feel very proud; proud that we have an organization that can work together with our dads and their organization, the National; proud that our members are the kind that back our association and work together no matter what the task is; proud that we are all sons and daughters of cattlemen; and proud last and most of all that we are all Americans, fighting for the most important thing in life, freedom."

"I hope we can always maintain this organization and be of service to you when you call."

Executive Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National, to whom the letter was addressed, said:

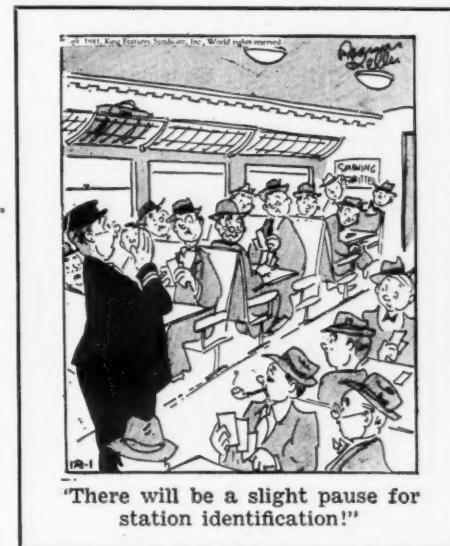
"I find your letter upon my return from an extended trip to Washington, and I want to tell you that I think it is about the finest letter I have ever received. Nothing very bad can happen to this country when our young men and young women organize, stick together, and fight at home and abroad for the democratic principles which have made America great and for the right to continue to exercise them and to enjoy the freedom which has always been the heritage of this country. I am sure your letter will be an inspiration to everyone of our thousands of readers."

"My very best wishes to you and the other boys who are just entering the service. I hope and believe that it will not be so long before you will be back on the job in Arizona."

MEAT FROM ARGENTINA

A LETTER BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
F. E. Mollin, of the American National Live Stock Association, to H. V. Kaltenborn, radio commentator, crowded out of our previous issue, is published below. The letter has had wide publicity and has evoked considerable comment.

"In December, 1940, we wrote you in considerable detail commenting on the speech you made at the Town Meeting of the Air in November of that year on the subject, "How Should We Meet Totalitarian Aggression in the Americas?" We objected to the stand you



took relative to the importation of meat from Argentina, and explained the situation fully to you.

"We regret to note from your recent broadcasts (in December, 1942) that you still cling to the position that an injustice is being done both to the Argentine producers and to American consumers by keeping Argentine beef out of the American market. There has been no change for the better in the disease situation in the past two years. If anything, I think it has been for the worse, because in that period we are advised that Argentina has suffered a most severe outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. They are never free of this disease, but there is a variation in its virulence at times, and it is commonly accepted by sanitary authorities in this country, and not denied in that country, that wherever they have cattle they have foot-and-mouth disease.

"There has, however, been a change economically that affects this situation, and that is that even our own government officials would not today wish to enter into competition with Great Britain for Argentine beef, if we were foolish enough to run the risk incident to such importations. Even in the case of canned beef, which we can safely accept, our government has been most careful to limit its purchases so as not to run up the price on Great Britain. Argentina is now negotiating a new contract with Great Britain for its surplus beef for the coming year. A recent announcement stated that Argentine producers were anxious to secure a slight advance in price in this contract, but there was not even a suggestion that any effort should be made to peddle it around in order to advance the price. England needs the beef and Argentina is going to supply that demand, and the price will be mutually worked out.

"Your statements imply that the American consumer is suffering from a meat shortage which could be relieved by letting down the bars to Argentine beef. You ignore the fact that the shortage is an artificial one, created by diverting a tremendous amount of meat to our allies; that we produced last year (1942) the greatest quantity of meat ever produced in this country; and that plans are now afoot for even greater production this year. Our present basis of production would be ample indeed for our domestic population if it were not necessary and desirable to go as far as we can in supplying our allies.

"Under these circumstances any diversion of beef from South America to the United States would simply create a bigger hole in the supply situation of our allies now receiving that beef. It seems to me that you are rendering a disservice to the American consumer to hold out the hope that greater supplies of meat would immediately be available if only the bars against importations from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exist were let down. There is a world shortage of meat under the stress of the

war emergency, and we can count ourselves lucky if we are able to maintain something like the 35-ounce-per-week ration recently announced by Secretary Wickard. We would not be playing square with our allies if we attempted to enlarge that amount at their expense.

"From the disease angle, your attitude is even less defensible. What a calamity it would be under present conditions if we were to have an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. We have been free from it for almost fourteen years, and this is the longest period since the turn of the century in which we have enjoyed such freedom. With war conditions making every operation more difficult, an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease at this time might do more damage to the war effort than blowing up all the munitions factories would do. It paralyzes every business operation in the areas affected. Our Bureau of Animal Industry follows the policy of slaughtering every affected animal, every exposed animal, and beyond that any animal in a buffer zone around the exposed and affected area. Why can't you play fair with the American agricultural industry which is doing a great job of production under most difficult conditions instead of presenting a distorted account of the situation that exists and raising false hopes as to an easy but thoroughly impractical remedy?"

CATTLE GRUB CONTROL

THE CATTLE GRUB IS A PEST which robs ranchers and farmers of \$50,000,000 every year. That's a lot of money to hand over to the maggot. But more than money is involved. The grubs waste meat that is badly needed now. They ruin a lot of good shoe leather.

Cattle grubs can be controlled. Methods vary. Of those suggested by the Department of Agriculture, the range animal operator would probably choose the spray method, first in the following list:

An ordinary power-operated orchard sprayer, with at least 250 pounds of pressure and a number 5 (5/64-inch) disk in the nozzle, will do the trick. One hundred gallons of the spray should treat from 150 to 175 head of cattle. Best results will be obtained by directing the spray to the backs of the cattle where grubs occur, holding the nozzle about two feet from the animal.

Mix 10 pounds wettable sulphur with 5 pounds of derris or cube powder (5 per cent rotenone). Run 100 pounds of water into the spray tank. From this tank add enough water to the mixed powder to make it into a thin paste and pour the paste into the spray tank while the agitator is running.

Another method good for any size herd is the dust method. Sift into the hair along the infested area of the back about one ounce of a dry mixture of equal parts by weight of wettable sulphur and cube or derris powder. The

powder should contain 5 per cent rotenone. Rub the mixture gently into the hair so it will reach the grub holes. Make the first application as soon as the first grubs appearing in the back are of a dark brown color, and repeat the treatment every thirty days as the grubs show up in the back. A home-made quart-jar sifter can be made by punching about twenty-five quarter-inch holes in the jar top. Punch the holes from the inside.

Good for average-size herds is the injection method. Commercial benzol, when used in a common oil can, has been found useful. The can should have a very small spout so that it can be inserted in the grub holes. About twenty drops of benzol is the desired amount to inject in each grub hole. This is the least amount you could inject with an oil can with one squeeze. Benzol is inflammable, even more so than gasoline, and therefore care must be taken not to expose it to fire.

For small herds the wash method is suggested. Mix in one gallon of water twelve ounces cube or derris (5 per cent rotenone) and either two ounces of soap or six ounces of wettable sulphur. Dissolve the soap in warm soft water. Add a small amount of the soapy water to the powder to make a paste. To this add the remainder of the water and stir well.

If sulphur is used, mix the powder and sulphur together. Add water slowly, making the mixture into a paste before adding all the water. It is better to use sulphur if the water is hard, because soap causes the material to clot and settle, which reduces its effectiveness. This amount is sufficient to treat from twelve to sixteen head of cattle, depending on the length and thickness of the hair and the size of the animals.

The least expensive equipment for applying cube or derris to the backs of cattle is a screw-topped fruit jar and a

MRS. HEEL FLY SAYS:

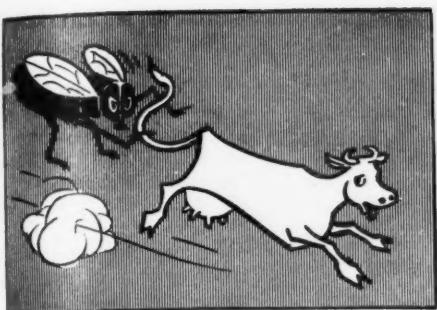
"These warm winter and spring days are mighty fine for egg laying."

And those warm days hatch the eggs. The larvae enter the leg and start their long journey to the gullet, where they truly live off the fat of the land. They travel through the tissues to get there, but some think the cow licks them off her leg. Wrong guess.

After seven or eight months the larva wants "lebensraum" like any other saboteur. He's about fed up anyway and wants some fresh air. So, on to the back.

He wants about a month or two there to develop his muscles and grow a tough coat to withstand the cool weather. If you don't catch him there he will drop to the ground.

There he will hide for a month or so as he develops and turns into a heel fly, and the vicious cycle starts all over again. You can't touch him on the ground. Dept. of Agri.



Range Research Highlights

What the researchers at the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station have found out about range management.

Gains in weight of cattle both on the Great Plains and in the mountains of Colorado, irrespective of grazing intensity practiced, begin to decline during August and by October practically no gain is made and loss is liable to occur. Time of marketing cattle should be guided by this result to insure maximum production of food from range land.

* * *

Yearling Herefords grazing ponderosa pine bunchgrass on the Manitou experimental forest at heavy, moderate, and light intensities made gains of 184, 215, and 230 pounds per head, respectively, from June 1 to October 31, inclusive. Forage utilization for these three intensities of use was 34, 23, and 14 per cent, respectively.

* * *

Weight of yearling Herefords grazing on the Manitou experimental forest at the opening of the grazing season was correlated with subsequent gains. Animals weighing approximately 375 pounds at the beginning of the grazing season gained more than either heavier or lighter animals grazing the same forage. Similar observations have been made on short-grass ranges with the optimum gain occurring when the animals weigh approximately 400 pounds at the opening of the season.

* * *

A three-year study of comparative gains of steers and heifers grazing short-grass on the central plains experimental range indicates that practically no difference in gain occurs between the sexes when they are grazed on the same pasture.

* * *

Evidence continues to accumulate that the decline in rate of cattle gains on the short-grass range beginning in August is related to a lack of protein and possibly phosphorus and calcium.

* * *

Fourwing saltbush and common winterfat contain approximately twice the amount of crude protein that is found in the native grasses.

* * *

In 1942, forage production on the central plains experimental range averaged 40 per cent less than in 1941, but cattle gains were only 10 per cent less.

* * *

In 1942, pastures having from 10 to 20 per cent of the total forage composed of secondary grasses and perennial weeds continued to produce higher cattle gains than pastures consisting of nearly pure stands of short-grass.

Three years of normal or better precipitation in eastern Colorado have been accompanied by nearly 50 per cent reduction in density of pricklypear cacti.

* * *

Excellent short-grass ranges are characterized by an almost continuous sod of blue grama and buffalo grass with an overstory of taller grasses and fairly palatable perennial weeds which is especially evident in average or wet years.

* * *

Short-grass ranges are in good but not necessarily optimum condition if the sod consists of pieces separated by bare spaces not more than three to six inches wide. The majority of central great plains ranges are potentially capable of maintaining themselves at this level if they are properly managed.

* * *

Fair short-grass ranges have a sod broken into bunches separated by spaces at least six to twelve inches wide.

* * *

A stubble height of one and a half inches will, on the average, indicate utilization of 40 to 50 per cent of total seasonal weight production of blue grama on short-grass ranges. This is a fairly proper degree of utilization.

* * *

The Russian thistle stage on abandoned fields generally disappears of its own accord, if ungrazed, within a period of three or four years.

* * *

Calves born in May and grazed on moderately used pastures are fifty to ninety pounds heavier in November than similar calves on heavily used ranges.

* * *

On high altitude summer range on the Grand Mesa National Forest populations of thirty-eight pocket gophers per acre were observed in 1942.

The first year after removal of pocket gophers on summer range was marked by a significant increase in volume and density of weeds produced.

* * *

Lupine appears to be eaten by pocket gophers in preference to all other species on summer ranges on the Grand Mesa National Forest.

* * *

Cattle which practically cease to gain in October on ordinary short-grass range show gains of more than forty pounds in

scrub brush. From the outside of the jar lid punch about twenty holes with a 16-penny nail. Remove about every other tuft of bristles from a stiff-bristled scrub brush. While scrubbing the cow's back with the brush in one hand, continue to sprinkle on the solution from the jar with the other hand.

Another choice for small herds is the extraction method. Squeeze out by hand the grubs found in the backs of animals. By persistent effort it is possible to squeeze out all grubs and prevent them from changing to heel flies.

RATE REDUCTION CASE

Chas. E. Blaine, traffic manager of the American National Live Stock Association, Charles A. Stewart of the Texas traffic organization, Lee J. Quasey of the National Live Stock Marketing Association, and Arthur Geary, of the Northwest Traffic League, were the principle representatives for the livestock producer at the hearing recently in the re-opening of Ex Parte 145 under which the railroads in 1942 were granted a rate increase. Among witnesses for the stockmen was F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National. The government representative is Max Swire, of Chicago, contending that the wartime rate increases run counter to the national economic stabilization policy and that rail revenues have risen so that higher rates are not needed to meet the higher operating costs pleaded when the rates were granted. The railroads contend they should be allowed to accumulate funds for future emergencies.

RAIL RATES IN SOUTH

Railroad freight rates within the South and from the South to the East and North were reduced in February on the average by more than 6 per cent. Rates on stocker and feeder cattle from the West to the South were lowered from an average of 83 cents to 76 cents and bedding charges cut in two or better. As an example of the new rates, in a movement from Marfa, Texas, to Memphis, Tennessee, to Atlanta, Georgia, to Charlotte, North Carolina, and finally to Jersey City, New Jersey, the charges for an average load, including bedding at the four points, now is \$304.40. This represents a saving of \$87.90 over charges which would have been made previously.

November when placed on pastures supporting a mixture of species which are high in protein content.

* * *

A survey of twelve pastures stocked at different rates in 1942 indicated that if a blue grama plant had been grazed at all it was grazed approximately the same amount regardless of the rate of stocking. Heavy stocking simply resulted in more plants being grazed.

OILMEAL SITUATION

THE STRONG DEMAND FOR OILMEAL which has been in evidence since last fall continues throughout the country, with feed mixers and livestock and poultry producers taking all supplies of these feeds as rapidly as they become available, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It is estimated that production of oil cake and meal from the four principal oil seeds—cottonseed, linseed, soybeans, and peanuts—will be about 40 to 50 per cent larger in the current quarter than in 1942.

In April-June, production of these feeds may be nearly double that in the corresponding quarter last year. The quantity of these feeds fed to dairy cattle will be reduced during the late spring and summer months as dairy cows are turned on pasture. This reduction will make more feed available for hogs and poultry and result in some loosening of the oil meal

supply situation in this period. Nevertheless, increases in prices of corn and other feeds since last fall have made prices of oil meal cheaper than in the fall in relation to other feeds. Oil meal also is cheap in relation to livestock products. These factors, together with limited supplies of animal protein feeds, probably will result in very little seasonal decline in prices of these feeds this summer and in little accumulation of stocks this summer for carryover into the 1942-43 marketing season.

The total supply of four principal oil cakes and meals for 1942-43 is estimated to be 7,150,000 tons—51 per cent larger than was the supply during the period of 1941-42. After allowing for the change in inventory of cottonseed and peanut cake and meal, cottonseed cake and meal used for fertilizer, and soybean meal used for food, the quantity of these feeds available for livestock feeding is expected to total about 6,640,000 tons—about 47 per cent greater than in

SUPPLY AND DISAPPEARANCE OF SEVEN HIGH-PROTEIN FEEDS—COTTONSEED, SOYBEAN, LINSEED, PEANUT MEAL, COPRA CAKE AND MEAL, GLUTEN FEED AND MEAL, AND BREWERS' AND DISTILLERS' DRIED GRAINS, IN TERMS OF OILMEAL

EQUIVALENT: SUPPLY

Year	Tons of Feed
1937-41 av.	4,995,000
1941	5,720,000
1942	8,167,000

APPARENT DISAPPEARANCE AS LIVESTOCK FEED

Year	Tons of Feed
1937-41 av.	4,543,000
1941	5,487,000
1942	7,657,000

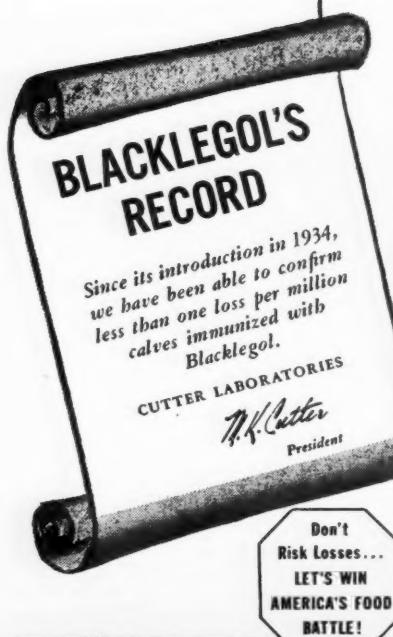
APPARENT DISAPPEARANCE OF ANIMAL PROTEINS FOR LIVESTOCK FEED

Year	Tons of Protein
1938-42 av.	3,072,000
1942	2,939,000
1943	2,855,000

1941-42. During 1943 an increasing quantity of soybean cake and meal will be used for making soya flour and other food products. The quantity so used in 1942-43 is expected to total about 200,000 tons. It is probable that some soybean meal will be held over into 1943-44 for feeding, so that the quantity available for livestock feed in 1942-43 may be about 300,000 tons less than production, or approximately 3,500,000 tons. Production of peanut cake and meal has been small so far this season. Growers have been slow in marketing peanuts for crushing, but heavy marketings are expected toward the close of the marketing season.

The 1943 production of tankage and meat scraps at wholesale packing establishments is expected to be larger than that in 1942, since total livestock slaughter will be increased. Fish meal production, on the other hand, is expected to be much smaller, since operations of the fishing industry will be reduced, and a larger proportion of the catch will be

IF HE'D HAD A SHOT OF
CUTTER BLACKLEGOL, HE
MIGHT BE HEADED FOR THE
LIVESTOCK SHOW INSTEAD—



With every calf worth more these days—to you and to the country—now's no time to be gambling with any "just as good" blackleg vaccine.

Just *why* should Cutter Blacklegol be your choice? The reason lies in its special chemical fortification. Because Blacklegol is aluminum hydrox-

ide adsorbed, it is held in the animal's tissues longer and released slowly. Thus it acts like repeated small doses of ordinary vaccine.

This special adsorption process was developed—and patented—by Cutter. Insist on Blacklegol! 10¢ a dose; less, in quantities.

CUTTER Laboratories • Berkeley, Calif. • Since 1897

used for food. The quantity of skim milk, both liquid and dried, available for livestock feeding also will be reduced in 1943. It is estimated that the supply of these four animal-protein feeds available for livestock feed in 1943 will be equivalent to about 2,855,000 tons of oil cake and meal—3 per cent less than the quantity fed in 1942.

**APPARENT DOMESTIC DISAPPEARANCE OF
ELEVEN HIGH-PROTEIN CONCEN-
TRATES FOR LIVESTOCK FEEDING:**

		T R A T E S F O R L I V E S T O C K F E E D I N G :		Protein Feed
	Total Disappearance	Livestock Production	Consumed per 100 Pounds Livestock Products	(Pounds)
Year	(Thousand tons)	(Billion tons)		
1935-39	av.	6,524	39.0	33
1940	7,450	44.0	34
1941	8,502	45.7	37
1942	8,875	50.2	35
1942	10,385	56.7	37

While the supply of oil cake and meal in 1942-43 is expected to be nearly 50 per cent greater than in 1941-42, the increase in the supplies of all protein feeds will be much less than this and the increase relative to livestock production will be very small. The situation here is disclosed in the above table, which shows the estimated disappearance of eleven principal protein feeds, by quarters, totaled in tons equivalent to one ton of oil meal. These totals indicate a 23 per cent increase in supplies of all proteins available for feeding in the marketing year beginning October.

1942, and an 18 per cent increase in the calendar year 1943 over 1942. This is only slightly more than the increase expected in livestock production.

In 1943-44 supplies of high proteins available for feed may be somewhat smaller than in this season. A large quantity of soybean meal, possibly 500,000 tons or more, will be used for food, and production of cottonseed meal and fish meal may be smaller next year than this. Some further reduction in the quantity of skim milk fed in 1943-44 also is in prospect. With livestock numbers increasing, supplies of protein concentrates in 1943-44 may be considerably smaller in relation to livestock production than in 1942-43.

ARIZONA CONVENTION

BEARS, LEGISLATORS, AND TAXES were some of the subjects discussed at the thirty-ninth annual convention of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association in Phoenix, Arizona, February 5-6. On these and other matters the Arizona stockmen expressed opposition and approval and sought relief in a packet of thirty-four resolutions adopted.

thirty-four resolutions adopted. Convention sessions were devoted to informal discussions of war time problems, with the theme, "If it will win the war, we are for it, no matter what the sacrifice." The meeting drew 340 Arizona cattlemen and cattle women to Phoenix.

They voted complete confidence in the

stockmen members of the state legislature and suggested to the state legislature that it follow their lead in matters pertaining to the industry. "Beneficial legislation" awaiting action in Arizona includes: Control of Bang's disease, tuberculosis, and all infectious and contagious diseases of a foreign nature; limited and general partnership bills; reorganization of the state land department; state land classification bills; predatory animal and rodent control.

Like men from the farms, men from ranches are still going into industry to find higher pay, and despite directives ordering otherwise, Selective Service boards are still inducting cowboys. The Arizonans therefore said that the War Manpower Commission should provide better control of "pirating of agricultural workers by industry" and Selective Service should provide mandatory deferments. They urged adoption of a plan of induction that would provide for assignment to agriculture of key men with an identification to show their service in a capacity as important as that of bearing arms.

as that of bearing arms.

They would also get a "better balance" of labor and materials for agriculture if the government stopped the "substantial number" of non-essential federal projects now under construction, the cattlemen said, adding that the government could likewise eliminate overlapping government agencies and reduce the number of federal employees and thereby "assure that the proceeds of

These days of shortages-

CAN YOU AFFORD TO LOSE A SINGLE ANIMAL?

Prevent losses by vaccinating with the finest, most dependable vaccines and serums you can buy!

If you've been losing stock, from one trouble or another, see your Cutter dealer. Chances are there's a Cutter Product that can stop your losses.

Cutter pioneered the field of animal disease control, actually originated many of the vaccines and serums now in general use. And remember, too, Cutter Products are made by a laboratory which produces vaccines and serums for *human* use, where highest standards are imperative.



If your local veterinarian or drug store cannot supply you, order direct from nearest Cutter branch . . .
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bonds purchased through hard work and self-denial are properly and efficiently expended."

Rubber Administrator Jeffers should be given the necessary metals for synthetic rubber plants, the members urged. They suggested that speed of trucks be increased to maximum operating efficiency, that intrastate trucks be given priorities equal to interstate trucks, that Office of Defense Transportation forms be simplified and made practical, and no form of transportation trucks be restricted to any set distances of travel. They asked that the government meet minimum requirements of the industry in windmills, barbed wire, haying machinery, pipe, pump parts, horseshoes and nails, and lariats which are now in short supply. They urged their own members to "conserve all vital defense materials, in order that we may soon win the war."

Stockmen are insistent in demanding that there be no modification in the embargo against the importation of livestock or dressed meat from any country having foot-and-mouth disease. The Arizona stockmen worded their demands on this score, "no modification whatsoever." In the foreign-trade field they also urged that trade agreements be made with the "advice and consent of the Senate;" that, when the war is over and great quantities of food are shipped to famished countries, beef be included in such shipments, so that surpluses may go to needed places and not pile up to plague the industry.

Satisfaction generally has been expressed over the way the Bureau of Animal Industry has taken care of the country's disease problems. Therefore stockmen objected to the transfer of the Meat Inspection Division from that bureau to a new Food Distribution Administration. Arizona stockmen concurred in this and asked that the bureau be restored to its status.

Extension of industry's work week to an inferred fifty hours was suggested "in fairness to our armed forces and to our allies."

Price ceilings on live animals were opposed. Ceilings on beef, it was suggested, should be adjusted from time to time to induce feeders to increase weights.

Resolutions dealing with land problems asked for sufficient appropriations to enable continued investigation of public lands; indorsed the principles of the Johnson bill, which would provide a "legal status for advisory boards and stability of use by elimination of distribution programs;" requested closer cooperation by forest officials with forest advisory boards; and favored legislation to encourage fee simple ownership of public lands.

One of the resolutions said that "increased government regulations are making it daily more difficult to transport and market livestock from ranges and farms." It asked that all avenues of sale be kept open.

An amendment to the income tax laws was urged to exempt proceeds from sales of capital breeding herds when sold because of drought, eviction by the War Department, or other reasons beyond the owners' control.

The state game department, the stockmen thought, should change the classification of bear to that of predatory, and these killers should be eradicated. Increased appropriation for the state's livestock sanitary board was requested.

The stockmen suggested to local county cattlemen's groups that they form junior cattlemen's associations.

Other resolutions endorsed the work of the Arizona Tax Research Association; indorsed the principles in the resolutions adopted by the American National Live Stock Association; commended the railroads in "their management and operating personnel;" commended the American Meat Institute's meat advertising campaign; and thanked the National Live Stock and Meat Board for its work for the industry.

MORE CALF PLANS

ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO THEY found it: The calf-plan way of raising funds for livestock association work. Secretaries and other officers have not always relished the chore of getting in the funds they needed, but they have had to do that part of the job also. Working on the problem one day, Clarence Jackson, a pioneer member of the Yavapai Cattle Growers' organization in Arizona, hit on the scheme of payment by calf. Its novelty appealed to cattlemen. How well is shown in the yearly contribution of that county group to the American National Live Stock Association to the tune of \$1,000.

The calf plan idea spread to other counties and to other states. In the ten years, many good-sized checks have come to the American National from all parts of the West. Recently the Modoc County Cattlemen's Association in California turned in a calf-plan payment of more than \$600. The plan is responsible, some of the secretaries say, for a sounder financial foundation in their organizations. That certainly is so in the case of the American National. That organization is also finding that county and local groups generally are contributing substantially larger funds. A recent payment made by the Highland Hereford Breeders' Association of Texas ran up close to \$350.

Bruce Brockett, Rimrock, Arizona, chairman of the finance committee of the American National, writes about a calf plan in Mohave County, Arizona:

"Inclosed please find check from the Mohave County Cattle Growers' Association for \$500. I was extremely happy to learn that we have another calf plan in Arizona. You will notice that it is a jump from \$100 (the association has been paying \$100 yearly). Mr. Grounds and Mr. Odle presented this check

through Frank Boice, American National president, at the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association meeting in Phoenix. Each expressed himself as being aware of the many hazards ahead and that the American National could do a good job only if we all did our part. And I would say that these boys are doing their part in a big way.

"I hope to hear of many new calf plans this year. I am sure there are a lot of locals that would find it great sport, once they started. I feel that we need much more money than ever before.

"We had a fine meeting in Phoenix. We expected very few, but 330 people registered."

ASSOCIATION NOTES

COMMENDS STAND ON LIVESTOCK IMPORTS

The Florida State Cattlemen's Association, meeting at Kissimmee on January 13, commended F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, "for his alertness and courage in calling the attention of Mr. Kaltenborn (radio commentator) to statements made over the radio in reference to importation of meats and livestock products to relieve temporary meat shortage, and the dangers of bringing in diseases that would be detrimental to the livestock industry." Secretary Mollin's letter appears on page 9.

WASHINGTON MEETING

The board of directors of the Washington cattlemen's association, meeting in Spokane on January 9, adopted a resolution suggesting that "all unnecessary regulations of agriculture be avoided and that necessary rules be submitted to agricultural organizations for their suggestions as to simplifications and workability before being put into effect." Another resolution asked the state game commission to take immediate steps to reduce elk numbers in Yakima, Kittitas, Asotin, and Garfield counties.

BOULDER COUNTY JOINS NATIONAL

The annual meeting of the Boulder Stockmen's Association held February 15 at Boulder, Colorado, was attended by some sixty stockmen. Special guests were the vocational agricultural class from the local high school. A good deal of discussion related to control of cattle theft. This organization not only cooperates with other groups in its forest area in offering rewards for conviction, but supplements this activity with a scheme of posting ranges through cooperative individual effort which has brought good results. Bitter resentment was expressed toward insurance companies which try to avoid payment of just claims for livestock killed on the

IS THERE COMPETITION FOR YOUR LIVESTOCK?



Perhaps the most highly competitive market in the world is that on which American livestock producers sell their cattle, sheep and hogs. The competition in buying of livestock is so keen that those who handle and process meat animals average to pay out for their raw material (livestock) about 75 per cent of their total income from the sale of meat and by-products, and their annual earnings on the meat and by-products which they sell represent only an infinitesimal part of a penny per pound of product.

Nothing in the world, other than the keenest kind of competition in both the buying of livestock and the selling of the products, would hold profits of the processors to such small figures (one-fifth of a cent a pound in 1941).

The competition is so keen that even old and well established firms are un-

der constant pressure to obtain sufficient raw materials. The available supply of livestock is what determines the volume of the meat business and, if a competitor is allowed to buy an ever-increasing portion of the market receipts, that competitor will inevitably increase his volume of business at the expense of other competitors in the trade.

So it is constantly necessary for us to watch the operations of competitors and to match their efforts in the matter of obtaining supplies that we may not lose ground and fall back in our business which we have been years in building up.

It is this "watch and match the other fellow" situation which makes the packing business the most highly competitive in the world and holds the profits to such small figures.

ARMOUR and COMPANY

highway by trucks or automobiles. C. A. Joy, supervisor of the Roosevelt National Forest, a new man in the area, talked of plans for co-operating with the stockmen. His talk was followed by one by the local ranger, Mr. Randall, who discussed range management in connection with the government's cattle marketing goals. Secretary Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association reported on his recent trip to Washington. Dr. Dean, of the Colorado Agricultural College, discussed the control of animal disease. Earl Brown, of the brand commission, reported on that department's plans for expansion in the future. It was a most interesting meeting throughout. The association, already a member of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, voted to affiliate also with the American National Live Stock Association.—F. E. MOLLIN.

NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS' RESOLUTIONS

The National Wool Growers' Association at its seventy-eighth annual convention in Salt Lake City, January 25-26, asked the government to purchase at ceiling prices the entire domestic wool clip during the duration and for two years thereafter, and until the "stockpile" is liquidated. Other resolutions asked that preference be given domestic wool in government and civilian orders; called for increased hours in the work week; suggested reduction in government civilian employment; asked for lower rates on baled wool; opposed ceilings on live animals; denounced black markets; and urged deduction at stockyards of 75 cents per car for lamb promotion. G. Norman Winder, Craig, Colorado, was elected president; C. B. Wardlaw, Del Rio, Texas, honorary president; and Thos. Drumheller, Yakima, Washington, honorary vice-president, the latter two for life.

MONTANA MEETING

A protest against shifting of the meat inspection division from its former position in the Bureau of Animal Industry was made in a resolution passed by the executive committee of the Montana Stock Growers' Association recently. The stockmen opposed "any action that will disorganize or impair the work of the BAI" and asked Secretary Wickard to maintain the bureau as a separate unit under administration of a head trained in prevention of livestock diseases. The resolution stated that under the supervision of Dr. John R. Mohler, the bureau "has performed its duties of preventing, controlling, and eradicating diseases of livestock in a most efficient manner."

GRAZING SERVICE COUNCIL MEETS

The National Association of the Grazing Service, meeting in Denver, Colorado, February 17, adopted resolutions recommending: that livestock workers of military age be inducted, placed in reserve corps, and returned to their work; that machinery and repair allotments be substantially increased; that OPA give consideration to small packers, allowing reasonable quotas; that cottonseed and soybean cake be made available to stockmen; that ranges be stocked to full capacity, unused ranges and national parks be opened; unlicensed horses from ranges be eliminated, and hunting of surplus game be sanctioned; that ample ammunition be provided for the killing of game and predators. The group opposed unnecessary acquisition of grazing lands for artillery and other practice use. The council consists of two members from each public land state, one a sheepman, the other a cattlemen. They are elected by users of the public domain, which number 21,000, operating 1,750,000,000 cattle, 9,000,000 sheep, 127,775 horses, and 149,488 goats.

WILDLIFE MEETING

The theme at a conference of federal and state officials and individuals interested in wild life, sponsored by the Wild Life Institute and the Wildlife Federation, meeting recently in Denver, was the harvesting of surplus edible wild life to augment meat supply, thus contributing to the war effort. The group recommended in a resolution adopted that sufficient ammunition be made available for this purpose. It also informally approved maintenance of the sanitary regulations which protect susceptible species of big game and wild life from foot-and-mouth disease. The Wildlife Federation at a separate meeting recommended that part of the money received from sale of duck stamps be used to acquire public duck-shooting grounds.

CALENDAR

MARCH—

5-6—Nat'l Angus show and sale, Chicago.
10-11—Kansas Live Stock Ass'n convention, Wichita.
12-13—New Mexico Cattle Growers' Ass'n convention, Albuquerque.
13—Crawford Hereford Breeders' Ass'n sale, Crawford, Neb.
16-17—Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Ass'n convention, Fort Worth.
27—Idaho cattlemen's spring sale, Boise.
31—Platte Valley Hereford Ass'n sale, North Platte, Neb.

APRIL—

2-3—Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Ass'n. convention, Salt Lake City.
7—Midwest Hereford Ass'n sale, Holyoke, Colo.

MAY—

27-29—Montana Stock Growers' Ass'n convention, Billings.

ATTENTION, CATTLEMEN!

If you need top quality Hereford Bulls or Heifers this spring, we will have them gathered at one location for your convenience.

They will be classified into A, B, C groups by competent judges and sold in that order.

They are consigned by reliable Idaho Breeders who own the dams of their entry, thus insuring complete satisfaction.

An established spring event for the cattlemen.

The Idaho Cattlemen's Association Sale

Classification, 1:30 P. M.
Friday, March 26, 1943

FAIRGROUNDS
BOISE, IDAHO

Sale, 11:00 A. M.
Saturday, March 27, 1943

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Price Control

A SHOWDOWN IS FAST APPROACHING in Washington as to whether or not the price control program of the administration can be made reasonably effective or whether it will be found necessary to grant the demands of labor for increased wages and those of certain agricultural groups for higher farm prices. It is proper to say that the dilemma in which the government now finds itself has been created by the administration itself. In the beginning, more than a year ago, when price control bills were introduced in Congress, the administration refused to recommend for labor the same rigid controls it demanded should be applied to agriculture. Even Leon Henderson, first administrator of OPA, supported the administration's attitude and claimed that the price situation could be held in check without such rigid control of labor. Later he was forced to reverse his stand and admit that it could not be done, but by that time the damage was largely done.

Further, the administration participated in fixing wage scales for various war projects throughout the country on an artificially high basis. Now, belatedly, it finds that its very action in this regard is serving to give the farm groups, who are pressing for higher prices, their best arguments. These high wages have drained labor away from the farms and ranches even more than has the draft for Selective Service. Farmers, particularly dairymen, who have had their best men taken away from them, find it more profitable to sell out and go to work in war plants than to attempt to continue production of vitally needed products. Wherever labor is a most important element in

farm production, such as in dairying, beet growing, etc., the administration is now face to face with a real problem of how to maintain, let alone increase, such production.

Recently there has been a stiffening in the attitude toward labor. Packer's unions were denied an increase in wages because their present scales were above the formula established in the "Little Steel" case of 15 per cent above January, 1941. But at about the same time, to show the utter confusion in policy, the forty-eight-hour work week was proclaimed for certain critical areas with time and one-half for overtime. Thus again a deliberate move has been made in the direction of higher costs and greater pressure on certain existing price ceilings. The real test will come with the miners and railroad brotherhoods, each of whom are demanding substantial increases, the former \$2 a day, the latter 30 per cent.

Regardless of the final outcome on this front, there still remains the agricultural problem—whether it is more important to hold rigidly to the present price ceilings than it is to take such steps as may be necessary to bring about increased production in certain lines. Farmers complain that in many products actual prices today are still far below parity. The administration, on the other hand, insists that in connection with triple A payments the farmer receives a total equal to parity price.

If it were possible to go back and put wage scales on a reasonable basis where farmers could compete in the labor market with some hope of success, the problem now would be much less difficult, but it is too late to go back. Basically it appears that the administration cannot have all of what it wants—increased production at present price levels. It will have to decide between price and production, with the chances very strong that the urgent need for production will determine the matter and that some adjustment in prices upward is inevitable.

Regulations Ad Absurdum

HUMOROUS, YET ALARMING, IS the tendency of Washington bureaucrats solemnly to order and plan our daily lives. New lows in this direction have been reached in orders of various kinds that can have no possible relation to the war effort.

For instance, under an order by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, no credit can be given by filling stations. Just why it is lawful to buy a pound of butter or a hat on credit but unlawful so to buy a gallon of gas has not been explained.

Food Administrator Wickard banned bread slicing. It was conceived as an aid to holding down costs and prevent price rises, but, it is claimed, it acts in reverse and actually induces waste. To thousands of small bakers who have slicing machines and would like to use

them and could do so with no increase in their overhead and to millions of consumers who do not have sharp bread knives, it appears ridiculous.

The champion to date is the WPB order on horseshoes, reading "horse owners can, in many cases, save shoes by removing the shoes immediately after a period of necessary road work or other work where shoes are necessary only during certain periods." It should be headed, "Be a Nice Horsie and Take Your Shoes Off."

The absurdity of thousands of people spending their time at high salaries in Washington telling the people to do the things the people always have done, or prohibiting their doing things that in no way concerns the war effort, is apparent to all. Some of these days a long-suffering people will demand that Congress strip the bureaus of the power to impose such orders, which have the full force and effect of law. Such action on the part of Congress will provide a good many thousand men to help meet the man power shortage.

Black Market

THE SIMPLE REASON WHY THE black market in meat exists today is that demand has grown far beyond supply. The military, with large quantities needed, lend-lease, with further big requirements, and civilians, with more money with which to buy meat, have built this demand. But distribution to civilians is in chaotic condition. So, more precisely, that, especially in the larger cities, has created the black market.

Concern over the growing practice is widespread. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard said that "if this goes on without check, it is going to be difficult to operate the war food program." Congress has demanded that the OPA find ways of enforcing their ceilings and regulations. Packers fear that many will be forced to close if flagrant bidding up of live animals continues. A spokesman for the "little packers" blames OPA policies for the "worst black market in the nation's history."

To the consumer the black market means exorbitant prices for meat, which has sold as high as \$1.75 a pound in New York, although of course he should not buy on the black market. To the producer—and the cattleman is vitally concerned, for the black markets are particularly serious in beef—it means a threat of ceilings on the live animals. To the country it may mean a threat to supplies required for the armed forces. It may mean, in the illegal butchering, a waste of such materials as hides, fats and oils, and by-products, and there is also the question of wholesomeness of meat so processed.

The answer to all this would be more production of meat, if that were possible. But admittedly little can be done to supply enough meat to satisfy all

demands. Ceilings on live animals cannot be the answer, for the present chaotic conditions would only be aggravated by more of the same kind of regulations. If enforcement is not possible in wholesale and retail prices, what would it be in live animal prices? There would be even more opportunities for black market operations.

Another answer, however, is meat rationing. This should be got into effect at the earliest possible date. Once consumers are assured that they are getting their fair share of the supply available, the majority of them will co-operate.

In the meantime, until OPA gets better control of the situation, producers can help by refusing to sell their slaughter stock if they have any reason to believe that it is to be diverted from the regular channels of trade into black markets.

Ranch Labor Deferment

MAN power is needed in the food production industry. That is recognized on every side. But it is true also that local boards are still inducting essential farm workers. Already agriculture has lost more men than it can afford.

The machinery for placing every man where he is most needed is not perfect, but the law was written to make it operate as efficiently as possible. That machinery will operate more smoothly if stockmen will take advantage of the provisions in the Selective Service Act applying to their industry.

In many instances stockmen have ignored various of these provisions. To help Secretary of Agriculture Wickard in his big production program, they should file the Selective Service affidavit on occupational classification—Form 42. The filled-out form will show to the boards that the employee is an essential home front worker—a worker needed to supply food.

Another part of the machinery of Selective Service—the appeal board—is not being used by stockmen to the extent that it might. This was pointed out by Selective Service officials at the recent convention of the American National Live Stock Association in Denver. The appeal board is set up to be used. Its purpose is to function when the local board's action seems to need adjustment. Use it if necessary.

Not from a selfish viewpoint, but in the knowledge that "food will win the war and write the peace," agriculture has a big job to do. It must have its key men to do that job.

Concentrates Shortage

THE ARTICLE ON CONCENTRATED feeds on page 12 of this issue of the PRODUCER tells us about present supply and demand of the product and gives us some idea of what the future situation will be.

That shortage of feed concentrates is at the bottom of the stockmen's feed troubles this year is evident. But it is also the case that the small user is being given preference, since the mills get \$3 a ton more for less-than-car-lot sales, and a portion of the available supply is held back from free sale and distributed only on direction of local war boards.

The biggest damage, however, was probably done early in the season when the soybean crop was beginning to move, and when ceiling on crushers stood at \$2 per ton higher than the guaranteed floor price. Larger amounts of products were turned over to mixed feed dealers just as the West started to lay in stores. Many mills notified their customers that new orders could not be taken until spring, and, in some cases, even later.

Just what can be done to relieve the situation is a problem. At best the supply, although substantially above last year, has left many a stockman and farmer short of concentrates, and no matter what had been done about ceilings this would have been the case. It cannot be expected that the government will foresee every result of its manipulation of price and production, but unfortunately at a time when the run of finished cattle at the markets has dropped materially because of uncertainties in ceilings and shortage of concentrates, necessary stepping up of production is prevented.

Something must be done about distribution of the product next year. The livestock industry must be assured of an equitable supply, or a more serious meat shortage will face the country.

MRS. MAXINE MOLLIN DIES

Mrs. Maxine Mollin, wife of Lawrence F. Mollin, of the American National Live Stock Association, Denver, Colorado, passed away suddenly in Denver on January 29 after an operation and a brief illness. Mrs. Mollin was born in Marengo, Iowa, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Clements. She received her primary and high school education in Marengo, and, after attending the University of Iowa and Drake University, taught school at Blairstown and Grinnell, Iowa. She was active in club and civic affairs, was a member of P. E. O. and the Order of Eastern Star, and was interested in parent-teacher and cub scout work. Mrs. Mollin is survived by her husband, two sons, Charles, eleven, and Jon, four, of Denver, her father, and two sisters, Betty Clements, of Marengo, and Mrs. W. P. Stansberry, of Pasadena, California.

MISSOU HINES, OLD-TIME COWBOY, DIES

William (Missou) Hines, old-time cowboy and oil man, died at the age of seventy-eight in Denver, Colorado, where he had lived since 1923. He was born

near Nevada, Missouri. He arrived in Wyoming, settling in the country around old Fort Casper, when he was sixteen. From a cowpuncher's life in those days he rose to become a stock grower, oil leaser, and oil company executive. One of his first jobs was on the old J. C. Carey ranch. He married Mrs. Mary D. Jackson, of Lander, Wyoming, daughter of P. P. Dixon, cattleman of that state.

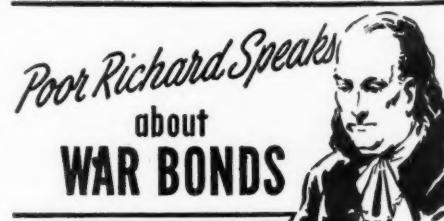
DR. J. S. ABBOTT PASSES AWAY

Dr. J. S. Abbott, Washington, D. C., secretary and director of research of the National Association of Margarine Manufacturers, was stricken with coronary thrombosis and died on January 23.

He was born in 1871 in Buena Vista, Mississippi, and was graduated from Chicago University in 1907. He was food and drug commissioner of Texas from 1907 to 1914. In 1914 he joined the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture and continued his work in the field of public health. In 1920 he became associated with the margarine industry where he remained until his death.

COLONEL M'KEACHIE MISSING.

The War Department has announced that Colonel Douglas C. MacKeachie, general purchasing agent for the European theater of operations, is missing on active duty. Colonel MacKeachie figured prominently in an agreement about two years ago which limited imports of South American canned beef and was the main contact for representatives of the American National Live Stock Association at that time. He was a former president of the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company of Vermont and went to Washington in 1940 as deputy director of purchases for the OPM. He later served as director of purchases for OPM and the War Production Board and was a civilian employee of the War Department as deputy director of procurement and distribution for the service of supply before being commissioned in May, 1942.



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Buy only what you need and put the rest in War Bonds every market day.

U. S. Treasury Department

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

WASHINGTON

ENFORCEMENT OF CEILINGS ON meat is reaching the nightmare stage as ceiling violations, black markets, and country slaughter mount up. The government is bearing down with prosecutions. Congress is insisting that OPA get control of the situation. . . . The OPA is working on retail meat ceilings to follow the pattern of the new wholesale beef ceilings. They are expected to be announced about mid-March. It is also considering a reduction in the 75-cent carlot discount on wholesale beef. Some packers are still asking for ceiling prices on live animals; but, before anything happens along this line, producers will have a hearing. This is assured, says Executive Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association.

* * *

While the matter of renewing the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act has not as yet engaged the attention of Congress, some observers believe that there is a fair chance that the law will be amended to require Senate ratification of trade agreements made in the future.

* * *

Announcement has been made that the Department of Agriculture is to revive the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporations, with the idea that it will facilitate increased production of needed farm crops. The American Bankers' Association opposes this move, saying that the various existing government loan agencies and idle cash in country banks should be all that is necessary.

* * *

Sufficient new steel tonnage for doubling the year's output of new farm equipment has been allotted by the WPB on Secretary of Agriculture Wickard's insistence. This means 40 per cent of 1940's new machinery manufacture. Repair steel allocation has also been increased. . . . Secretary Mollin believes the range country stands a good chance of getting a restricted supply of standard gauge barbed wire in place of the lighter kind experimented with last year. . . . More harness leather is to be made available to ranchers and farmers. A WPB order stops deliveries of harness leather except to persons who use the leather in making harnesses for farm and draft animals.

* * *

The regulations pertaining to the rationing of canned goods contain a clause authorizing local boards to handle the rationing on a basis similar to that in sugar. So ranchers will not have to be running to town too much.

* * *

The above and other matters were the subject of study and conferences by

Secretary F. E. Mollin in Washington, D. C., last month.

* * *

The House Agricultural Committee approved a bill to include the cost of farm labor in parity prices. Most of the important farm groups—National Grange, Farm Bureau Federation, National Council of Farmers', Co-operatives—favor inclusion of labor cost in parity computation. The Farmers' Union prefer subsidies instead.

* * *

Dairymen have been asking the government to abandon its recent ceiling on the farm price of milk. The National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation proposed abandonment of subsidies for milk producers and suggested in effect a suspension of the ceilings so that milk may find its own level. . . . In order to hold milk production to the highest possible level, the Department of Agriculture is buying and re-selling dairy cows to prevent their being sold for slaughter. Cows bought by the department are sold to farmers having feed, labor, and equipment for caring for additional animals.

* * *

Secretary of Agriculture Wickard has ordered packers to reserve 50 per cent of their weekly lard output for purchase by the Food Distribution Administration. . . . Household waste fat collections for the month of December exceeded 5,000,000 pounds.

* * *

In issuing an order transferring the meat inspection division from the Bureau of Animal Industry to the Food Distribution Administration, Secretary of Agriculture Wickard said that "the present administrative policies of the meat inspection service will be continued without any lowering of the high standard of inspection already established." Stockmen generally have opposed this transfer.

* * *

The discharge program for men over thirty-eight calls for five requirements for discharge: (1) the soldier must have been thirty-eight years old before February 28, 1943; (2) he must have been inducted before that date; (3) he must submit written request for discharge prior to May 1, 1943; (4) he must present evidence that, if discharged, he will be employed in an essential industry; and (5) it is a condition that the soldier's release will not seriously affect the organization to which he is assigned.

* * *

Recent ODT and OPA releases regarding transportation state that: Used trucks and other commercial motor ve-

hicles may have to be rationed in the near future to assure proper utilization of existing equipment; provision has been made for the issuance of temporary transport rations beyond January 31 in order to assure farmers and other commercial vehicle operators continued adequate mileage; ration board control of recapping of passenger car tires with reclaimed rubber will be eliminated about March 1, and a motorist will have his tires recapped when he believes it is necessary; state legislatures are urged to adopt flexible speed limits rather than a rigid thirty-five mile standard. It is desirable to authorize governors and other state officials "to change the speed limit, if this action should be found necessary at any time."

* * *

Oklahoma City joined Denver, St. Joseph, and Indianapolis recently when a federal district judge sustained demurrers to charges of price fixing brought against Armour and Company and Wilson and Company by the government fifteen months ago. Similar charges were dismissed by a jury at St. Joseph and by federal judges in Denver and Indianapolis.

* * *

The National War Labor Board recently refused to authorize general hourly wage increases for 150,000 workers in the four leading packing companies—Swift, Armour, Wilson, and Cudahy. The board did, however, say that negotiating parties should seek to eliminate inequalities in various wage rates.

* * *

On February 20, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Grover Hill told wool growers that a plan for government purchase of the 1943 wool clip will be worked out. A committee representing producers and the wool trade will work with the government on the problem. Wool growers generally favor the move.

* * *

With the President's order for a forty-eight-hour week to increase production came also a dose of inflation in the form of a 10 per cent raise in wages. As it figures out on the time-and-a-half rule, the worker gets 30 per cent more wages but at the same time puts in 20 per cent more work.

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MARKETS

FEBRUARY MARKETS

By H. W. French

LIVESTOCK MARKETS THE PAST month were surprisingly bullish, but supplies were moderate and demand exceptionally broad. Upturns developed in the face of unchanged dressed ceiling prices. Some interests which were inclined to be bearish were compelled to trail the rising market or go without supplies. No underlying weakness was apparent, as was evidenced in the quick recovery following every downward trend.

The Food Distribution Administration delivered 5,730,000,000 pounds of food and other farm commodities for shipment to the allies during 1942, making a total of 9,224,000,000 pounds since the start of lend-lease operations in March, 1941. Food deliveries under lend-lease in 1942 were less than 6 per cent of the total United States food supply in that year. The beginning of food shipments to Russia during 1942 reflected substantial increases in deliveries of many commodities, particularly meats, fats and oils, and some grain products. Virtually all deliveries in 1941 went to Britain and the British dominions. Meat products during 1942 moved ahead of dairy products,



H. W. French

eggs, and grain products. Nearly all the meat delivered was pork, or about 9.8 per cent of the United States total pork supply.

Eastern order buyers at Chicago bought grain-fed cattle, principally steers, freely, and west coast buyers operated extensively at Denver and at several of the Missouri River markets. In addition, west coast buyers operated extensively in the feeding areas of Colorado and Nebraska. Not all the purchases of these western buyers were on California account, as some orders were filled for the northwestern coastal area. This outside competition undoubtedly was responsible to a great degree for the unusually strong market, many local buyers being forced to take cows to get numbers, thereby making it possible for sellers to boost cow prices with steers and heifers.

Current prices for live cattle are too high, based on dressed beef ceilings, and packer beef sales have been consummated at a loss. What will be done about this situation is anybody's guess. Certainly much will depend upon the size of the supply in the weeks just ahead. High-yielding cattle at Chicago enjoy a uniform demand, whereas so-called cheap cattle found irregular outlet and buyers left them alone at every sign of renewed strength. There were times when killer needs were so great that they took anything with any "covering" and practically crowded the replacement buyers out of the market.

Choice and prime beef steers at Chicago in the closing week of January made up 22.8 per cent of the supply against 34.4 per cent a year earlier. Good steers

stood at 43.4 and 38.3 per cent, respectively. Medium steers increased from 25 per cent a year ago to 32 per cent. Average price of common steers for the last week of January was \$11.88 against \$16.11 for choice and prime. All grades averaged \$14.91 against \$12.59 a year ago.

January Slaughter Down

Slaughter of cattle under federal inspection during January fell over 100,000 short of a year ago, and the decrease in calf slaughter was almost as large. Sheep and lamb slaughter was up over 100,000 but the hog slaughter fell off 400,000. The decline in hog slaughter was most surprising in the face of the heavier crop of hogs known to be in the hands of the producers. Some of this decrease, however, is offset by heavier weights on the average for hogs marketed.

Long-fed cattle are fast disappearing and many markets have been reporting new crop steers and heifers, indicating that much of the supply consists of cattle on feed from 100 to 150 days. Some big operators, however, are known to have cattle in the feed-lot which they have been feeding more than six to eight months, and it is to these feeders that buyers must look for finished cattle in the next few months.

Mid-February prices at Chicago in all instances were unevenly higher than a month earlier. Grain-fed steers and heifers as well as all cows were generally 50 cents to \$1 higher for the month, and in most cases prices were at or near the highest point of the period. Some classes hit the highest level in years. Bulls closed mostly 50 cents higher, although not up to the month's high spot. Vealers were largely \$1 up, and heavy calves mostly 25 to 50 cents higher.

Any number of choice heavy and medium weight grain-fed steers at Chicago scored \$16.75 to \$16.90, and light yearlings went as high as \$16.60. Some steers averaging 1,663 pounds were reported at \$16.15, but offerings around 1,500 pounds and heavier were in the minority. For the month, most of the steer crop sold at \$13.75 to \$16.25, and very little at any time landed much under \$13. Choice to prime 1,040-pound heifers made a new top of \$16.50 and several strictly good to choice loads made \$15.50 to \$16.25, mixed yearlings topping at \$16.15. Most of the medium to good heifers landed at \$12.75 to \$15, and many of these represented short-fed offerings, the lowest of which had little grain but mostly roughage.

Most of the medium to good cows cleared at \$11 to \$12.50, but there were some good offerings at \$12 to \$13.50, including a 1,300-pound load at \$13.40. Strong weight cutter cows sold largely at \$9.50 to \$9.75, but late some of them were selling at \$10. Only a small part of the canner supply sold down to \$7.50 after early days and fleshy kinds finished around \$8.50 to \$9. Top bulls soared to

**Annual
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87 Registered Herefords

Selling

45 Bulls—two years and over

16 Bulls—long yearlings

21 Bulls—yearlings

Sixty-one of these bulls are of serviceable ages. They have been reserved for this sale and are the tops from the herds that have made northwestern Nebraska famous. . . Also in this sale are five bred cows, of all ages. . . Come early and inspect these cattle before the sale.

Elmer Raben, Crawford, Neb., Sale Manager
A. W. Thompson, Auctioneer

\$14.60 and then broke back to \$13.75 to \$14 for the best only to recover to around \$14.25 to \$14.35 at the close. One load of 1,400-pound fed western bulls sold at \$13.75, and only medium grade light weights at any time landed at \$12 and below. It was largely a \$16 to \$17 market for good to choice light veal calves but some reached \$17.25.

Choice 1,095-pound beef steers at Omaha reached \$16.40 and some up to 1,492 pounds scored \$16.35, while a fair quota, mostly above 1,100 pounds, landed at \$16 to \$16.25. Good to choice offerings bulked at \$14 to \$15.75 and medium kinds were most numerous at \$12.50 to \$13.75. Some heifers scored \$15 to \$15.50, but the bulk grading good to choice sold at \$13 to \$14.65. Medium to good cows were most frequently taken at \$10 to \$11.75, but some good offerings made \$12 to \$12.75. Although bulls reached \$13.85, the closing limit was around \$13.25. Vealers topped at \$15.50, the top for most Missouri River markets.

Medium to good fat steers at Kansas City went at \$12.50 to \$15.50, and several choice loads scored \$15.65 to \$16, with 1,150-pound weights as high as \$16.50. Best heifers made \$15.50 to \$16 and the medium to choice bulked at \$12.50 to \$15. Most cows cleared at \$10 to \$12.50, some good offerings reaching \$13. Best bulls closed around \$13, but some early reached \$13.75. St. Joseph reported some 996-pound steers at \$16 and other choice offerings at \$15.50 to \$15.85, while medium to good bulked at \$12.50 to \$15. Several loads of choice heifers cleared at \$15 to \$15.40, some from Nebraska reaching \$15.50. Bulls sold largely at \$11 to \$13. Most cows made

\$9.50 to \$12, but some scored \$12.50 to \$13.

Good to choice steers at St. Paul made \$14.50 to \$16.15, and a few choice loads landed at \$16.25, common selling down to \$11.50. Common and medium heifers sold at \$9.75 to \$12 and much better kinds at \$14 to \$14.75. Common to good cows went at \$9.50 to \$13, occasional good lots reaching \$13.25 to \$13.50. Most bulls late went at \$11.50 to \$12.50, with a closing top at \$13 and some early to \$13.50. Vealers reached \$16. Several loads of choice steers at Sioux City made \$15.60 to \$16.15, but most good to choice scored \$14.25 to \$15.50 and bulk medium offerings went at \$12.50 to \$13.50. Medium to good heifers sold at \$12 to \$14 and choice at \$14.75 to \$15.25, some mixed yearlings making \$15.35 to \$15.50. Bulls reached \$14.25, but best finished at \$13.50. Common to good cows scored \$9.50 to \$13.

Average choice steers at Denver topped at \$15.75 and several loads went at \$15.25 to \$15.70. Most of the good steers sold at \$14 to \$15. Any number of the steers at \$14.50 to \$15.50 went to west coast buyers. Numerous loads of common and medium fed Mexicans put in an appearance and sold readily at \$11.60 to \$12.65. Several heifer consignments cleared at \$15.10 to \$15.40, western buyers paying as high as \$15.20. Good to choice bulked at \$14 to \$15, but many lower grade warmed-up and short-fed lots sold at \$12.50 to \$13.75. Some cows scored \$12.10 to \$12.50 and common to good bulked at \$10 to \$11.75. Most of the good bulls made \$11.75 to \$12.50, but common light kinds went down to \$10. Best vealers usually made \$16 to \$16.50, some vealers above 300 pounds

scoring \$15.50, while heavy calves were most numerous at \$12 to \$14.50.

Big Stocker and Feeder Demand

Stocker and feeder demand continued broad at most centers and there was a sizable movement from Texas direct to feed-lots in Colorado and to the Corn Belt, while many cattle off wheat pastures in Kansas were sent to Nebraska feeding areas and elsewhere. Some steer buyers wanted fleshy "two-way" cattle which could be used for short finishing, but others preferred light yearlings not too fleshy for a longer roughing and feeding period. Calves at many points found a better outlet than anything else. Mid-February prices at Chicago were mostly 25 to 50 cents higher than a month ago but calves showed more gain, often figuring around 75 cents higher. Advances at Missouri markets were even greater than at Chicago.

Medium and good replacement steers at Chicago sold at \$11.50 to \$13.50 and some scored \$14, while fleshy steers occasionally made \$14.50, and choice light western bred yearlings were not to be had. Medium to choice stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City usually landed at \$11.50 to \$14, but some scored \$14.50. Choice 460-pound steer calves made \$16.

Good to choice steers went to feed-lots from Omaha largely at \$12.75 to \$14, but some made \$14.25 to \$14.50, and yearlings around 525 pounds were reported at \$14.75 to \$15.15. Medium steers frequently cleared at \$11.50 to \$12. Good to choice heifers below and above 600 pounds were taken at \$12.75 to \$13. Good to choice heavy steer calves went

"heads up—"

The bull at the left is WHR Proud Princeps 9th Grand Champion bull at Denver.

Yes, here is the 1st Prize Get of Sire at the recent Denver Stock Show, the Get of WHR Princeps Mixer.



WYOMING HEREFORD RANCH

Cheyenne, Wyo.



at \$15 to \$16 and fancy 425-pound offerings topped at \$17.

Yearling and fleshy older steers sold to feeders at St. Paul at \$14 and other medium to good offerings went at \$11 to \$13.50. Sioux City reported medium to good steers on country account at \$11 to \$13.25, some common down to \$9.50 and choice at \$13.85 to \$14.50. Some 700-pound heifers reached \$13. Choice steer calves made \$16.25. Medium to choice steers went out from St. Joseph at \$11 to \$14.50, some 520-pound short yearlings making \$15. Good steer calves scored \$14.50 to \$15.50.

Light weight choice yearling stock

steers at Denver reached \$15 sparingly and some others sold at \$14.25 to \$14.75, but most of the medium to good steers went out at \$11.75 to \$14. Some 800-to 1,000-pound good feeder steers sold at \$13 to \$13.50. Medium to choice heifers were taken at \$11 to \$13, some choice loads scoring \$13.10 to \$13.50. Common to good stock cows bulked at \$8.50 to \$10.50, but outlet subsided in recent weeks. Fancy 426-pound steer calves topped at \$17 and the same price was paid for mixed calves when averaging under 300 pounds. Other good to choice steers calves in carlots were taken at \$15 to \$16.50. Heifer calves sold

generally to \$13 to \$14.50, but some of the mixed calves at \$15 to \$15.50 were mostly females.

Hogs Scarce, Demand Broad

Hog supplies were disappointing and demand was broad, more shipper buyers competing for offerings than usual. Bulk of the good to choice hogs from 200 to 300 pounds sold within a narrow price range, but heavier weights sold at some discount and those below 160 pounds went far below anything on sale. If the market follows its usual course, receipts in March will be below those of January and February, and, with light supplies and broad demand, packers cannot expect to have control of the situation, despite their claims of cutting losses.

The secretary of agriculture issued an order on February 11 designed to provide 1,050,000,000 pounds of lard to meet war requirements this year. Federally inspected packers will be required in effect to reserve 50 per cent of their weekly lard production during 1943 for purchase by the Food Distribution Administration, and packers began setting it aside February 14.

Despite the order, civilian supplies during 1943 will be slightly larger than in 1942. About 800,000,000 pounds of non-inspected lard expected to be produced this year will not be affected. Altogether there will be approximately 1,850,000 pounds of lard available for civilians, and this compares with 1,846,000 pounds in 1942.

Mid-February prices for hogs above 160 pounds at Chicago were mostly around 75 cents higher than a month ago, and some sales showed more upturn. The lighter hogs were seldom over 25 cents higher, as few slaughterers want such animals, despite their relative scarcity among the receipts. This condition probably will continue as more poundage is needed.

Top hogs during the period ranged from \$15 on the low day to \$15.70 at the close, and most frequently best hogs were available only above \$15.25, with numerous sessions when the top was \$15.50 or better. Sows showed fully as much advance as barrows and gilts, late sales bulking at \$15.10 to \$15.35. Butcher hogs below 160 pounds usually sold much below \$15.

Conditions were unfavorable in the early lamb producing areas of California until late January, but since then the situation has changed for the better and good feed is not assured for the immediate future. Moderate activity in forward lamb contracting has been reported with deliveries from late March through early June. Most of the purchases so far are for west coast slaughterers, and few straight feeder contract have been reported to date. Up to the middle of February about 350,000 lambs were reported under contract. Most of the early contracts in the San Joaquin Valley were at \$13 and some at \$13.25, but later contracts were reported at \$13.50 to \$14

War Is the Business of Barbarians

Napoleon was wrong in many things, but when he said "War Is the Business of Barbarians," he was right. Today decent people all over the world are striving to protect themselves and their property against three barbarian nations who want to live by the sword and make war a business and a part of their national policy.

History and common sense both teach us that we must cultivate the arts of peace in the midst of war, especially when those arts are so ancient and so essential to the survival of civilization as the keeping of herds and flocks.

As keepers of herds and flocks, stockmen today must and will produce to the limit of their ability. They will speed the war effort through their own national marketing service agencies.

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Blackleg Bacterin (5 cc. dose)	\$0.07 per dose
Hemorrhagic Septicemia Bacterin (5 cc. dose)	.06 per dose
Anti-Hemorrhagic Septicemia Serum	.180 per 100 cc.
Mixed Bacterin Bovine, Formula No. 1 (5cc. dose)	.06 per dose
(This new product has incorporated in it some of the organisms formerly contained in the pink eye and pulmonary bacterins)	
Coli-Enteritidis Bacterin	.06 per dose
(To be used for treatment and prevention of calf scours)	
One 10 cc. syringe and two needles	\$1.35

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in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys. Some offers of \$14.25 to \$14.75 were reported if topping of fat lamb bands was permitted.

There were around 1,080,000 lambs on feed in northern Colorado, Arkansas Valley, and Scottsbluff areas at the end of January, and this number compared with 1,360,000 the corresponding time last year. Northern Colorado had 610,000 and 780,000, respectively, the Arkansas Valley, 115,000 and 180,000, respectively, and Scottsbluff, 355,000 and 400,000, respectively. Loadings the first half of February were much below normal, and it may be that feed-lot operators are giving the wheat pasture men a chance to get cleared before they load to any extent.

Sheep and Lamb Trade Firm

Fluctuations in the sheep and lamb trade were of minor importance, although most of the time the undertone was firm. Heavy lambs were rather numerous, and some of those which sold at or near the top averaged over 105 pounds. Mid-February prices for fat lambs were around 25 cents higher than a month earlier, and slaughter ewes on a gradually strengthening market closed around 25 to 50 cents higher. Clipped lambs were in moderate supply and sold as freely as those in full wool.

Most of the good to choice fat lambs for the period sold at \$15.75 to \$16.50, and the closing top was \$16.35 as compared with some up to \$16.65 at the high time. It was largely an \$8.75 to \$9.25 market for the better grade fat ewes, and those at \$9.35 in January were the highest for that month in fourteen years. Best during the first half of February sold up to \$9.50, top for the period under review. Many of the medium to low good ewes sold at \$7.75 to \$8. Yearling wethers sold largely at \$13.50 to \$14.25, but a few choice scored \$14.50 to \$14.75. Any number of good to choice clipped lambs landed at \$15 to \$15.85, and best with No. 1 and No. 2 pelts sold as high as \$16.

Feeder lamb supply was negligible at Chicago and very moderate at other markets. Demand was equal to the supply on a rising market. Feeding and shearing lambs at Denver were around 25 to 50 cents higher at the middle of February than was the case at mid-January, but the advance at Omaha measured 75 cents to \$1. Some shearing lambs at Denver reached \$14.90, but no straight feeders passed \$14.50 and medium drive-in lots sold down to \$13. Omaha reported some shearing lambs up to \$15.60 and other good to choice at \$15 to \$15.40. That market reported several loads of choice feeding lambs at \$15 to \$15.25, and some in Kansas City reached \$15.

PICTURES IN THIS ISSUE: Cover, Chas. J. Belden, Pitchfork, Wyo.; pages 7 and 8, Forest Service; pages 11 and 28, Department of Agriculture; page 24, Harris, Reinbeck, Ia.

WOOL AND HIDE TRADE

By H. W. French

WOOL GROWERS ARE EXPECTED to discuss with the Department of Agriculture the government purchase of the 1943 wool clip. Many of the growers are in favor of the government taking the clip, and the prominent wool growers' associations are to be represented when the meeting is announced. Wool dealers at a later meeting will be given the opportunity to express their views.

The wool supply position in the country is much better than a year ago. Total stocks of wool on January 1 amounted to 1,300,000,000 pounds compared with 1,140,000,000 pounds a year earlier. During the last year about 850,000,000 pounds of wool went to the armed forces, or more than ever was consumed in any peace time year. The government's stock-piling activity is a safeguard, and holdings will not be made available for consumption unless a short-

age develops. There may be greater release of wool for civilian use sometime in May, if recommendations of the woolen and worsted manufacturers advisory committee are acted upon favorably.

An adequate supply of burlap and paper bags is expected to be available for packaging the 1943 wool clip, according to an announcement February 11 by the Department of Agriculture. The total number of bags expected to be available for use through this shearing season is around 1,500,000. There may be some difficulty in distribution, and growers are advised to order bags as early as possible. Paper-mesh bags are to play an increased role in the handling of this year's wool clip. Manufacturers are reported to be making in excess of 600,000 paper-mesh bags for 1943 wool handling.

It was reported that about 1,000,000 pounds of eight-month wools were purchased in Texas the second week of February for spring delivery at 43 cents, in

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	New York Feb. 15, 1943	New York Jan. 15, 1943	Chicago Feb. 16, 1942
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up).....	\$23.50-23.75	\$23.50-23.75	\$19.00-20.00
Steer—Good	22.50-22.75	22.50-22.75	17.50-19.00
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.).....	23.50-23.75	23.50-23.75	19.50-21.00
Steer—Good	22.50-22.75	22.50-22.75	18.00-19.50
Yearling Steer—Choice	23.50-23.75	23.50-23.75	20.00-21.50
Yearling Steer—Good	22.50-22.75	22.50-22.75	19.00-20.50
Cow—Commercial	20.50-20.75	20.50-20.75	16.00-16.50
Veal and Calf—Choice.....	22.25-26.50	22.25-26.50	20.00-21.00
Veal and Calf—Good.....	20.00-25.50	20.00-25.50	17.00-19.00
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Lamb—Choice (all weights).....	28.00-28.25	28.00-28.25	16.00-20.50
Lamb—Good	26.50-26.75	26.50-26.75	16.00-20.00
Ewe—Good	15.25-15.50	15.25-15.50	9.00-10.00
Ewe—Commercial	14.00-14.25	14.00-14.25	8.50- 9.00
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loin—8-12 lb. average.....	28.00-28.75	28.00-28.75	23.50-24.50

Chicago has suspended reports on wholesale dressed meats.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	Feb. 1, 1943†	Jan. 1, 1943	Feb. 1, 1942	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	99,562,000	120,503,000	123,502,000	71,920,000
Cured Beef*	6,953,000	6,531,000	19,097,000	16,538,000
Lamb and Mutton, Frozen.....	24,675,000	34,819,000	8,228,000	4,712,000
Frozen Pork	267,394,000	205,173,000	288,232,000	269,374,000
Dry Salt Pork*	114,585,000	91,557,000	89,219,000	82,240,000
Pickled Pork*	209,406,000	193,746,000	236,208,000	252,911,000
Meats, Miscellaneous	80,921,000	85,767,000	123,229,000	96,522,000
Lard	105,636,000	83,776,000	204,405,000	189,986,000
Rendered Pork Fat	6,441,000	7,557,000	5,065,000	—†
Frozen Poultry	142,128,000	187,943,000	206,120,000	162,625,000

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

‡Previously included with lard.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Feb. 16, 1943	Jan. 15, 1943	Feb. 16, 1942
Slaughter Steers—Choice (1,100-1,500 lbs.).....	\$16.50-17.00	\$15.50-16.75	\$12.75-14.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	15.25-16.50	14.25-15.75	11.50-13.50
Slaughter Steers—Choice (900-1,100 lbs.).....	16.25-16.90	15.50-16.50	13.75-14.75
Slaughter Steers—Good	15.00-16.25	14.25-15.50	11.75-13.75
Slaughter Steers—Med. (700-1,300 lbs.).....	12.75-15.25	11.75-14.25	9.75-11.75
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (700-900 lbs.).....	14.75-16.75	14.00-16.25	11.75-13.75
Heifers—Good-Choice	14.50-16.50	13.50-15.75	11.00-14.00
Cows—Good	13.00-13.50	12.00-13.00	9.00- 9.75
Vealers—Good-Choice	15.50-17.00	14.00-16.00	13.00-15.00
Calves—Good-Choice	12.50-14.50	12.25-14.00	10.00-11.25
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Gd.-Ch.	12.75-15.00	12.25-14.25	10.00-12.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	10.50-12.75	10.00-12.25	8.50-10.50
Hogs—Med. Weights (200-240 lbs.).....	15.60-15.75	14.65-14.90	12.85-13.10
Lambs—Good-Choice	15.50-16.50	15.50-16.15	11.50-12.10
Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice	13.50-14.50	13.25-14.50	10.00-10.50
Ewes—Good-Choice	7.75- 9.35	7.50- 8.85	6.00- 7.00

the grease. Arizona and New Mexico early shorn lamb wools ranged from 37 to 40 cents. A Wyoming county pool a week earlier was contracted at 38 cents and consisted of 30,000 to 50,000 fleeces. This same pool in 1942 went at 35 cents. A large clip of Idaho wool running three-eighths and quarter blood sold for spring delivery at 41½ cents.

Weekly apparel wool consumption on a scoured basis for December averaged 11,364,000 pounds, of which 5,883,000 pounds were domestic and 5,481,000 pounds were foreign. This compares with 11,252,000 pounds in December, 1941, made up of 5,504,000 pounds domestic and 5,748,000 pounds foreign. Total consumption of apparel wool in 1942 on a scoured basis was 560,418,000 pounds (239,724,000 pounds domestic and 320,694,000 pounds foreign) against 515,708,000 pounds (223,063,000 pounds domestic and 292,645,000 pounds foreign) in 1941.

The quartermaster department early in February asked for bids on 7,500,000 sets of underwear made of 50 per cent wool and 50 per cent cotton and 1,500,000 of 25 per cent wool and 75 per cent cotton and 41,675,000 pairs of socks made of 50 per cent wool and 64's grade or finer. Bids were to be based on the use of 100 per cent foreign. It was announced that preference would be shown toward bids based on the use of domestic wool.

Buyers were out of the market for domestic wool at Boston the second week of February, as they were awaiting larger quantities before operating to any extent. A few minor sales of leftover graded wools were made. Contracting of wool for spring delivery was reported from many areas, and in Texas both eight-month and twelve-month wool found outlet.

Foreign wools at Boston continue to be the main source of supply for immediate needs of manufacturers. Demand continued for spot and shortly-to-arrive wools from Australia and Buenos Aires and was mostly for fine and medium grades of wool, the former for socks and underwear and the latter for blanket orders.

Graded fine medium territory wools from Wyoming and Montana sold at \$1.18, clean basis. Contracting of fine wool in Wyoming was reported at 40 cents, grease basis. Idaho original bag wool going mostly three-eighths and quarter blood was contracted at 41½ cents. Original bag Wyoming wool from the 1942 clip sold at 41 cents for a lot bulking fine French combing shrinking 63 to 64 per cent.

A lot of 100,000 pounds of Del Rio, Texas, eight-month wool was purchased for spring delivery at 43 cents, grease basis. Other occasional sales were at 43 to 45 cents. Some twelve-month wool went at 48 cents and slightly burry of average staple sold at 46 cents, shrinking 59 per cent. Average to good twelve-month spot wool sold in Boston at \$1.18,

clean basis. Some scoured carbonized fall wool was reported at \$1.12.

Over 1,500,000 pounds of mohair sold in Texas late in January and early February, and some estimates placed the amount of mohair left in the state above 2,000,000 pounds. Most of the sales of adult hair were consummated at 50 cents, and kid hair in the main scored 70 cents, although occasional purchases were made at 75 cents and one lot of baby kid hair made 85 cents. Some Missouri mixed mohair went at 42 cents, grease basis.

Hides

Nothing of importance developed in the hide market, and practically everything sold around ceiling prices. Dullness featured the trade early in the period, although there was slightly improved action after early February. Shoe rationing was announced early in February, but the public will be assured of sufficient footwear under the plan, although waste in shoe manufacture will be eliminated. Country hide trade was about the same in tone as the market for packer hides, and nominal quotations prevailed. Permits were usually filled, but supplies of hides were seasonably lighter.

Heavy and light steers and cows of a native type supplied hides which were quoted at 15½ cents. Branded steer and cow hides were placed at 14½ cents. Native bulls made 12 cents. Packer calfskins were quoted at 27 cents, and packer kipskins at 20 cents. Quotations for country hides were as follows: All-weights and extremes, 28 to 42 pounds, 15 cents; bulls, 10 to 10½ cents; and branded hides, 14 cents.

FEED-LOT ECHOES FROM FOUR STATES

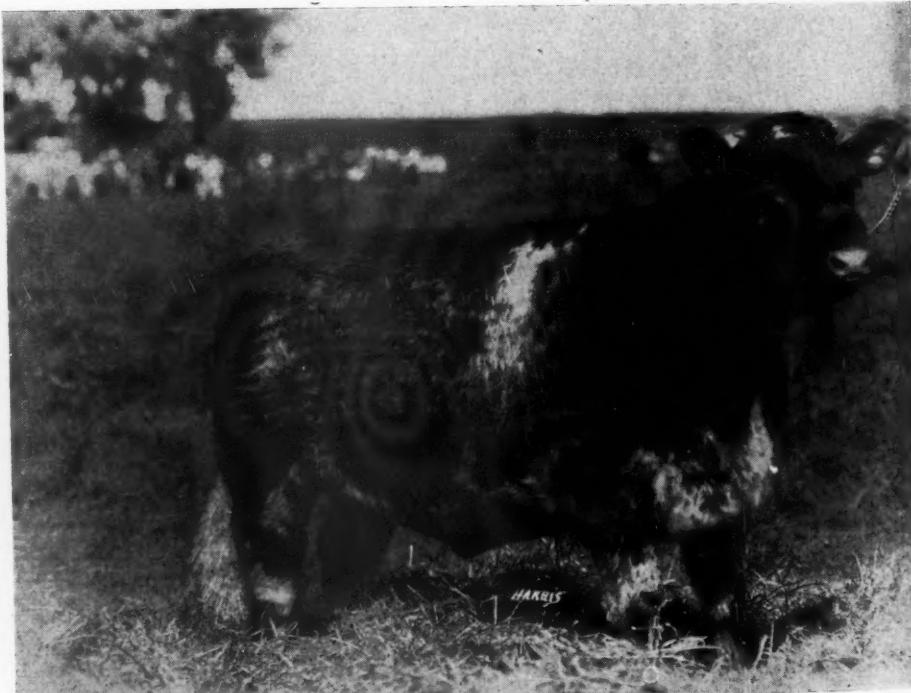
By David I. Day

IN NORTHEASTERN IOWA THERE is no locality with more fine and friendly people than Chickasaw County, all directions from New Hampton. It is not essentially a beef cattle country, most of the bovine interests there being concerned with dairy cattle. At the present time, I would say there is about the same number of beef cattle on feed there as was the case a year ago.

On an average, the grain and hay crops were better last summer than they were summer before last. Indeed, the hay crop was considerably larger, but farmers feel that quality had declined. On the whole, the feed situation there, as is general all over that corner of the state, appears more favorable than for several years. At the best, nevertheless, this is a grain-importing part of the tall-corn state, and for that reason the beef feeding activities are not in proportion at any time to the crops produced.

I observed a tendency among some of the younger farmers to get better beef to market, and the favored way to accomplish this is to get smooth, low, thick-set Angus bulls to cross on the Holstein cows—the black-and-white dairy breed being very popular there. This cross produces very good beef, the crossbreds being marketed at around one year of age.

A majority of the feeder calves brought in are from the Dakotas, from Nebraska, and from Montana. Most of the central market calves are sold in Chicago, but the packers at Austin, Minnesota, and



Royal Belle, one of the best of young cows on the 400-acre ranch of Otto P. Thader, near Lincoln, Iowa.

Waterloo, Iowa, get a great many of them. The 4-H and Future Farmer groups fed out about 100 head of baby beefes last year. There is an annual county fair at Nashua and a 4-H Achievement Day show at New Hampton each year, but the county fair has been suspended for the duration.

As one drives southwest from New Hampton to Marshalltown and Ames, there appears to be a greater number of beef cattle and not quite so many dairy cattle in proportion. The western white-faces in the feed-lots are this year of good to prime sorts, but they share the limelight with both the Angus and the Shorthorns. In the communities visited, the red, white, and roan cattle were the most popular apparently, and there are many choice commercial herds and several good registered herds in each of the counties traversed.

The beef feeders down the highway are somewhat perplexed as spring approaches. They are just becoming really aware that agriculture is in a bad way. Farm hands and the farm women, too, have deserted their rural surroundings by thousands to get in on the juicy defense plant wages. Domestic serving in farm homes at \$5 a week or less are now welders and inspectors in factories and shipyards at \$1 an hour, with time and a half for overtime. In the homes and the fields, labor is scarce. High prices are being paid at farm auctions for second-hand tools. As elsewhere in the Corn Belt, the farm sales are being held by scores all over Iowa. In the first World War, everybody wanted to farm. In this one, many are trying to get out while the getting out is good.

Skip a period of ten days, and imagine yourself on the good road from historic old Abilene, Kansas, a great cow-town of Texas trailering days—westward to Lincoln, county seat of Lincoln County, thence in a southwesterly direction to Great Bend. Quite a lot of fine white-face cattle are all along the way, so it means that the Herefords predominate in that part of the country, with Angus and Shorthorn herds found here and there. In Lincoln County, quite a good many feeder calves are produced from small farm herds almost all over the countryside. The Hereford breeders have a county association with Jim Wright, of Ash Grove, as the president.

A letter from Clinton, Kentucky—in the southwestern part of the state—tells of increasing beef cattle feeding there along the Mississippi River, with the Herefords predominating, as has been the case for many years. Some of the cattle fed there are natives, but the majority come either from Texas or from Mississippi. Local buyers get a part of the animals. The rest is sold on the St. Louis market. This happens to be the home county of the noted Hudson Farms, breeders of fine registered Herefords.

News reached me in Great Bend from friends in eastern Kentucky who are planning to go in more for beef, finding

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Secretary

L. C. "JIM" HOOVER
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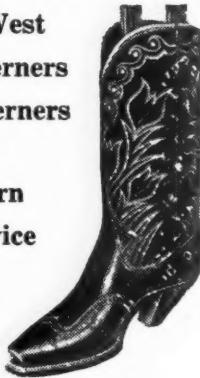
dairy help increasingly difficult to obtain. One mentioned the fact that bluegrass makes a very good silage and said that experiments at Kentucky State College proved this feed almost as good as alfalfa silage.

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MAGAZINE MART

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Folks I have contacted in various states the past thirty days are more serious than ever about the war. They feel the government has not given the farmers a break this time, but there is little sulkiness. As one big cattle feeder said: "Despite the fact that union labor has run away with everything, leaving the farmer the crumbs from the table, I am disposed to let history deal with this matter and will go ahead endeavoring to raise more of about everything, and I feel this is the sentiment among nine-tenths of all the farm folks in the Middle West."

While conditions always cut down attendance at this time, quite a number of my friends in Iowa and Illinois indicated they were headed for the annual meeting on March 4 of the Chicago Producers' Commission Association in Chicago. These people are alert and well-informed men in the cattle feeding field, and it was the general opinion among them that the cattle market will hold up very well around present price levels. They do not expect the supplies to keep up with the demand the next three months, so they are taking their time, feeding conservatively, and marketing the animals when they become about ready and the market is right.

**MEAT VENDING VIA
 THE BLACK MARKET**

By James E. Poole

MEAT DISTRIBUTION CONDITIONS in New York, Chicago, and other urban centers have been little short of scandalous. In New York a city survey resulted in astounding revelations, in-



James E. Poole

cluding price hiking, ceiling evasions, and existence of a coterie of preferred customers. The New York investigation disclosed that "a vicious practice has developed; in some instances a regular system of gratuities is practiced. Retailers refusing to pay these gratuities cannot get the limited quantity of meat allotted to them. No one claims that this money goes anywhere but into the pockets of salesmen; the incidental expense is passed on to consumers." Various methods of evading price ceilings have been invented, including padded bills with fictitious items, bills for higher grades of meat than delivered, and bills at lawful ceilings with added cash.

The OPA jumped into the Chicago

area and in a few days secured sufficient *prima facie* evidence to justify a score of prosecutions, asking injunctions and filing civil suits. In these transactions the ultimate consumer is the only possible goat; he pays the freight. When mandatory rationing is instituted in the near future, the attendant evils will be partly remedied, but policing the whole trade is a formidable if not impossible task. Harold Ickes said a mouthful when he asserted that "most people will cheat," and they will if the essential monetary inducement is provided.

What will happen when mandatory rationing is introduced is anybody's guess. Cupidity is an ineradicable trait of humanity. That the individual allowance, now 2½ pounds per capita weekly, will be reduced is certain, as there is not enough meat in sight to go around, in addition to meeting lend-lease and government requirements which are constantly expanding. Even now the government is short of pork; lard stocks are the smallest on record. Opinion exists in OPA circles that the allowances will be gradually reduced to 1½ pounds weekly, exclusive of edible offal, which is not rationed. Call it a case of mal-distribution or what you will, the fact remains that many sections of the country are without meat; and they are likely to continue to be, as the curtailed supply is seeking the shortest and least expensive route to the ultimate consumer.

Meat bootlegging, in the strict sense of the word, exists but to a limited extent and is rare outside rural areas. The bootlegger can handle pork in limited quantities during low temperatures; beef he does not specialize in. Lacking refrigeration, he cannot operate extensively; his sphere stops at suburban communities. He does not practice what is known as black marketing, as he makes no concealment of the traffic in which he engages. Nor is any considerable supply of meat available from other than local sources. Sporadic sales of horse meat get newspaper scareheads, especially when a group of politicians partake of a feast of that nature. A Michigan agricultural college professor acquired notoriety recently by announcing that several million pounds of game were available annually in that state; but he ignored the important factor of bagging it. Down in the Mississippi Delta, muskrat meat is in common use and the swamps thereabouts abound with it. According to the goal builders, there will be poultry in abundance, so that the American populace may develop into a nation of chicken eaters; but even production in this sphere has been grossly exaggerated. One crystal ball gazer predicts a record flight of wild ducks next fall, but scarcity of ammunition looms up. From Washington comes the suggestion that city folks embark in rabbit production, using as bait figures that would discredit Mark Twain's "there's millions in it." Investigation disclosed that municipal regulations re-

quire confinement of rabbits, and allocations of the necessary lumber to build hutches by the thousand are not available. And penned-up rabbits need incredible quantities of feed, especially grain, which is unavailable. Much of this nonsense furnishes material for jocular radio spouters, at their wits' end to provide entertainment for their audiences.

This line of thought introduces a serious feed problem. All over the nation there is a shortage of concentrates. In the eastern section of the United States a dearth of both roughage and grain exists. In the Middle West there is no excess, and cost of putting gains on livestock in the feed-lot is gradually rising. The 1942 corn crop was over-guessed, the backlog of old corn has vanished, and but for government wheat both cattle and hog feeders would have experienced trouble. Of grass there will be plenty, both in the farming and grazing sections, as winter humidity has been abundant if not excessive; but, in the case of corn—an expensive crop—the labor situation looms menacingly.

Various schemes for meeting this labor shortage have been evolved, all more or less absurd, such as drafting city boys and girls and yanking bartenders, drug store clerks, and haberdashery artists from their accustomed haunts and putting them to operating tractors, milking cows, and performing other producing functions requiring experience from childhood up. Already a bunch of mountaineers from the South have been moved to the Northeast. Farms and ranches have been literally robbed of labor which cannot be replaced. That the 1943 corn average will be substantially reduced is an acknowledged fact. To what extent cannot be conjectured. And this curtailed acreage must run the usual gamut of vicissitude, meteorological and otherwise, including insect pests. The voracious corn borer advanced many miles westward last year and is a handicap to be reckoned with.

Meat scarcity has been aggravated by failure of Secretary Wickard's winter swine avalanche to materialize at the markets or elsewhere. The peak of the movement is usually passed by February, but there is no indication of gluts, and especially in the Iowa-Minnesota area, where a huge increase was expected, weekly receipts have run below the 1942 count right along. Contention that country slaughter is responsible, also that freezer boxes have been constantly stuffed, is overplayed. By mid-February the \$2 break in hog prices last October had been repaired and the market was on a \$15 to \$15.50 basis. Growers have persistently followed the practice of loading on bulges, holding hogs back on breaks, keeping Packingtown and Washington guessing. Direct buying packers, scouring the hinterland for swine, have had hard luck; eastern butchers have taken a lion's share of supply at Chicago, Indianapolis, and other western markets, frequently re-

stricting the daily packer purchase to a few hundred head. What was considered a laudable project—to handle the marketward movement by permit, thus preventing local gluts—has been necessarily scrapped. Disease took a heavy toll of the 1942 spring pig crop; the break last October filled the market hopper with immature shotes in apprehension that drove cost would drop to \$12 per cwt. or less. Secretary Wickard checked that by announcing a \$13.75 bottom, but by that time the winter crop had been irretrievably curtailed.

Asking for 100,000,000 hogs this year, Mr. Wickard is shooting high. This is a bet that he will not get them all, and even if they materialize there will not be enough produced to come near satisfying requirements. Pork is the poor man's meat, and the aforesaid "poor man" is now in funds, able and anxious to buy meat in prodigious quantities and willing to go and get it, if he knows where to go. The colleges are turning out reams of literature admonishing farmers how to save pigs, but much of it is wasted wisdom. Experiment station scientists are exerting themselves to the utmost, doing excellent work, but their major problem is getting an audience. The 1943 spring pig crop is about to run the usual range of trouble. Tardy vaccination will again be responsible for mortality, as it was last year, and the man who never has luck growing hogs will resume his lugubrious song.

Dearth of stock cattle is ominous of curtailed beef production. Replacement cost is keeping pace with, if not leading, the advance in fat steers. Of the cattle that went into the Corn Belt last fall, a large percentage has already gone to the cooler; another large percentage is being roughed through the winter to be fed out on grass next summer or make cheap gains to go into feed-lots next fall when new corn is snapped. Feeders are out to make cheap growth, reducing the finishing period to less than 100 days. Kansas City prices are steadily crawling higher. Commission buyers have accumulated orders that cannot be filled at present prices. Concerning what will develop when the buying rush that invariably precedes the spring rise of grass comes, this deponent sayeth nothing. Short-age beef calves are selling anywhere from \$14 to \$16 per cwt.; with more bidders than offerers. At Omaha \$17 was paid for 400-pound whitefaces early in February, and the less weight feeders can take on, the more receptive they are. Breeding cows would be acquired in unlimited numbers but for prohibitive cost from a safe-investment standpoint. A veritable boom in purebred prices has thrown a chill into farm breeding circles, delaying establishment of many small herds that could be maintained at nominal cost on grass going to waste and winter roughage valueless unless thus salvaged.

Common cattle have all but disappeared at the markets. A recent pro-

lific southern supply source is drying up, probably never to be replaced, as the Cotton Belt is switching to quality. A no less authority than W. B. Mitchell, of Marfa, Texas, describing demand from that quarter for southwestern whiteface breeding cows, predicts that



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within a few years that portion of the South east of the Mississippi River will increase its present beef production ten-fold. Assuming that his vision is accurate, the resultant beef production would not more than supply local consumption requirements, as, outside hotel trade, especially in Florida and New Orleans, the entire South elsewhere than Texas never saw the much advertised "thick, juicy steak," or carved a palatable beef roast. And what, by the way, has become of that enormous increase in pork production in the cotton, peanut, and chufa belts so widely advertised in recent years? Corn is needed to make merchantable pork, and it does not thrive as a commercial crop below the Mason and Dixon's line.

Weight is no longer a handicap to a steer when it reaches any market. At Chicago, eastern buyers are hard put to fill urgent orders, and at western markets a bullock worth \$16 to \$16.50 at Chicago will go over the scales at the same price. As the winter works along, cattle on corn over six months rapidly disappear; beef tonnage is correspondingly reduced. Yearlings weighing around 1,100 pounds are eligible to the top price. Eastern shippers sacrifice quality to get weight, plain bred and even rough heavy bullocks participating in the daily scramble for more beef. To hold down the top price, pegged at \$16.75, a few "off" steers in a load, that according to the ritual are thrown out, now are ignored. In other words, the tail goes with the hide. Gradually the price spread has narrowed until \$14.25 to \$16.25 takes the bulk of the offering. There is still a showing of bullocks above \$16, but as time works along they will vanish, and that time is not far distant. Putting on the last 100 pounds is costly, and the mere threat of price ceilings on live cattle is enough to shorten the feeding period. A gap in beef supply at no distant date will generate no surprise in trade circles, as feeders are without incentive to go along.

Wholly without logic is the competition for all kinds of cattle, steers, heifers, cows, and even bulls, which has been a stout prop under the price list since the turn of the year. Packers resist it strenuously but futilely. Packers claim current prices are out of line with beef ceilings so that, even when selling values of hide, by-product, and the "drop" are reckoned with, figuring much profit in processing is impossible. During the past sixty days many a drove has gone to the shambles that represented waste of raw material, as duplication in the case of near-beef is impossible at the money they realized. Occasionally a feeder gets into competition with a killer on a drove of two-way cattle, but rarely does he get them. At Kansas City few steers weighing 1,000 pounds have "gone out." If this is not suggestive of a gap in supply somewhere along the line, what could possibly be?

ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN RANGE AND STOCK REPORT

THE DENVER OFFICE OF THE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported a lowered condition of feed on western ranges on February 1 and a seasonal shrink in condition of cattle and sheep. Where ranges were open east of the Rockies, feed was fairly good. In the Far West it was fair. Feeding became necessary in many sections. Hay was low in supply and high in price in most of the Far West.

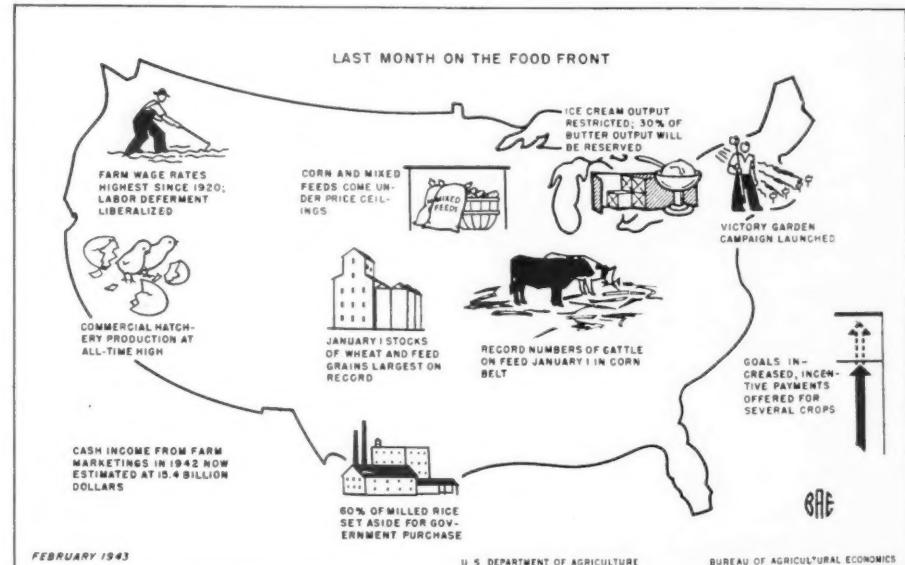
Range feed in the West as a whole showed more than the usual seasonal decline, due to snow covering and severe weather. The feed was largely covered in Montana and the Dakotas and parts of Wyoming and feeding was generally heavy. Ranges and pastures were mostly open and had fair to good feed in western Nebraska and Kansas, the lower areas of Wyoming, eastern Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. Storms and snow left little open feed in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Ranges in Utah and Nevada were open to wider use by snow and rain that supplied stock water. Old feed was short in Arizona and California, but

rain in late January improved the prospects.

Hay and feed supplies were generally ample east of the Rockies, but the supply of high protein feed was very short. Shortages of feed were reported from local areas in Oklahoma and parts of Texas. Hay was in short supply and its price high in all the Far West. Stockmen in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington had to rely heavily upon grains.

Cattle were in good condition but showed some shrinkage from cold and storms. Losses generally were light. Cattle made good gains in feed-lots east of the main range and did well on wheat pastures in Kansas and northern Texas. Feeding was general in the northern Great Plains, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and in the plains counties of Texas.

Sheep also showed some shrinkage but were generally in good condition. Death losses were light. Feeding was heavier than usual in the Northwest. Winter ranges were opened by rain and snow in Utah and Nevada. Texas sheep came through in fairly good condition, but some damage to new feed was reported. Sheep were largely on feed in Montana and the Dakotas. Early lambs were developing well in California and Arizona, but conditions were not favorable for early lambing in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.



Prospects are favorable for another record-breaking year of food production, according to the Department of Agriculture. However, the demand for farm products is expected to increase more than production. Moisture conditions were favorable at the beginning of 1943, and, with only average weather from now until harvest, crop yields per acre are likely to be about equal to the general level in 1940-41, and higher than in any earlier year. Cash income from farm marketings in 1942 is estimated at \$15,400,000,000—37 per cent more than in 1941. Fewer workers were employed on farms on January 1 than in any other month since 1925, when monthly records were begun. Farm wage rates, at 223 per cent of the 1910-14 average, were the highest since 1920.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

JEEP PROSPECTS

Many a rancher, especially in the rough country, has undoubtedly been speculating on the possibilities of the jeep as a piece of equipment for his ranch. One hears a lot about its farm use after the war. Some say it can haul a 1,700-pound wagon loaded with more than two tons of corn for a distance of twelve miles and back on a gallon of gasoline; that it can plow up an acre of land in an hour and a quarter on less than two and a half gallons. The man who designed the jeep, according to an *Associated Press* item, said it may profoundly affect the agricultural truck; that it has great possibilities on small farms. But its four-wheel drive, big tires, and big appetite for gas will keep it from affecting the passenger car, he said.

OLEOMARGARINE

Oklahoma's 10-cent-a-pound tax on oleomargarine has now been lifted, which means that the product will now be sold to a larger extent by Oklahoma grocery stores. Wholesale and retail levels have been set by the OPA on the product to permit a 3-cent-a-pound mark-up by the wholesaler and a 4-cent mark-up by the retailer. . . . Among recommendations made at the council of state governments recently was the repeal of federal and state license fees and excise taxes on colored and uncolored margarine. . . . More oleomargarine will be on the market this year than last. Last year 110 per cent of 1940-41 production was the limit of manufacture. This year the WPB has permitted 180 per cent.

HANDBOOK ON FEEDING

A handy manual on the feeding of livestock is Miscellaneous Circular 12, of the Department of Agriculture, for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 10 cents. It is entitled, "A Handbook for Better Feeding of Livestock," by Paul E. Howe and Harold M. Harshaw, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and T. E. Woodward, of the Bureau of Dairy Industry. It covers well the principles of the practical feeding of livestock in a general way. In addition, brief descriptions of the proper feeding practices for different kinds of livestock are given.

LARGEST TRUCK RECEIPTS

Chicago led all other livestock markets in the country in grand total of truck receipts for the year just passed, when an all-time record was established for the number of animals arriving by this means. Cattle, calves, sheep, and swine arriving at the Chicago stockyards in 1942 by truck numbered 4,351,889 head—an increase of 299,637 over the preceding

year. In 1941 Chicago led the next largest market by 60,055 head of trucked livestock, and last year the lead was more than double this figure, Chicago's margin over the next largest market in truck receipts alone standing at 166,665 head. Chicago also maintained its leadership in 1942 among the livestock markets of the country for combined truck and rail shipments. This total for all species of livestock was 10,368,062 head.

SHEEP INDUSTRY IN CHILEAN MAGALLANES

Recent reports, according to "Foreign Crops and Markets," indicate that sheep numbers in Chile in 1942 were between 6,000,000 and 6,200,000. This is an increase compared with the latest official estimate (1940) of 5,616,000 head, 43 per cent of which were in the Province of Magallanes (Tierra del Fuego). Future expansion of the industry is expected to take place in the central region of Chile rather than in Magallanes, as ranges in the latter territory are believed to be stocked practically to maximum capacity.

EXPECT MORE MEXICAN CATTLE

Mexican cattle exports to the United States are expected to be somewhat larger during the coming year than in 1942 as a result of the duty concessions made on 200- to 699-pound cattle and the suspension of quotas on other weight classes under the new trade agreement which became effective on January 30. Under the new pact the duty on all cattle, regardless of weight, is reduced to 1.5 cents per pound, without quantitative restrictions, for the duration of the unlimited national emergency proclaimed by President Roosevelt on May 27, 1941.

CATTLE DISEASE BOOKLET

"Controlling Cattle Diseases" is the title of a booklet issued by the Live Stock Sanitary Commission, Sioux City, Iowa, because "greater attention in controlling animal diseases is necessary to make the national program for increased production of meat and dairy products successful." Prevention, control, and eradication of the principal cattle diseases are outlined in the booklet in a way, not to give complete details, but rather to emphasize the practical handling of the diseases.

BRAND REGISTRATION IN OKLAHOMA

A new branding law is being prepared for Oklahoma by State Senator W. F. Hearne to provide for registration of active cattle brands every ten years and for making obsolete brands no longer usable. Senator Hearne said there were some 2,500 registered cattle brands in Greer County and most of those were registered in 1880 and 1900. Hundreds of them are no longer being used.

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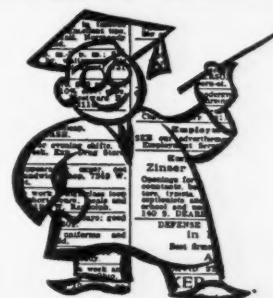
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LETTERS

NICE WINTER

We have had a nice winter in this part of Okanogan County. Not much snow fell, there were no thaws, and no very cold weather came until this past week (January 12). Cattle pastured late. Some losses occurred, but not from weather conditions. We are now getting subzero weather with some wind, which makes it tough on cattle. Feed is not too plentiful, and prices are high. Probably there is enough feed, if the extreme weather doesn't last too long.—**HUGH THORNTON**, Okanogan County, Wash.

APPETITE

West Central McLean County on the banks of the Big Muddy.—We had old-time winter weather the latter two weeks of January. Temperature was -40 at the coldest, which just whets the appetites of the old Hereford cows. Give them plenty to eat and they never mind the cold. We have just ended one of the most prosperous years (1942) in the history of this section of the state—McLean is just a little north and west of central North Dakota.—**GEORGE M. ROBINSON**, McLean County, N. D.

NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT

Stock in this part of Wyoming is wintering well, although we are having a real Wyoming winter (February 4) and it is taking plenty of feed. Winter pasture was nothing to brag about, although it has been worse. A hail-storm late in July practically wiped out a large section of winter pasture, leaving a good many ranches with no winter grass, as well as completely ruining their feed crops.—**MARY B. FEATHERSTON**, Converse County, Wyo.

LIKES HORSES

I read with interest the remarks on gas rationing in the PRODUCER. It strikes me that they are chiefly in bad taste. I know of no case off the highway where anything done with a pick-up couldn't be done better with a saddle horse or team. I will not take issue with ranchers whose land is so spread that they have to go sixty miles to operate windmills, but in this country I know of no ranch that could not do as well by keeping up another horse.

I know of a couple of instances where men put in for ten miles a day for opening water for cattle, and got it. In deep snow, they couldn't make it. How could they care for the stock better by driving? You can't work a pasture and see your stock without doing it afoot. If you saw anything needing care or taking in you would have to go back and get a horse anyway. This thing of hauling calves in a pick-up! What do they do

with the cow? If the cow or a number of them have to be taken from one end of the ranch to the other and can't be driven, why couldn't they be hauled in a wagon? The cow is going to have to be brought in anyway, unless you do all your moving with a truck, and that certainly isn't a daily occupation.

The biggest outfit around here runs about 2,500 head of cattle. They are also the most successful operators. They use horses. I have never heard of their pick-up being employed except for trips to town and on the highway. We had six weeks of rain in this country last year, and in this gumbo no car moved.

I think the squawk is chiefly for their comfort, because of course it is more comfortable on a cold day to sit in a closed cab than astride a horse. I am entirely in sympathy with the American National Live Stock Association in everything they have advocated excepting this, and I don't believe it would injure our production.

Those whose lot it is to do the fighting have very little to say about their comforts once they meet up with the enemy, in the Solomon Islands, for instance.—**STANLEY SLOAN**, Jackson County, S. D.

NO SNAP

Inclosed find my remittance, as I do not wish to miss your paper. While I am no longer in the beef cattle business, I am still interested in what is going on. Am farming and dairying now, which is no snap; but as long as I can feel I am helping feed our soldiers, etc., I won't complain. Having a very dry winter here in the San Joaquin Valley, although other parts of the state have had floods.—**MIKE POLLARD**, Merced County, Cal.

COLD WAVE

We had a storm January 15 in Harding County and a rather severe cold wave. Ice and crusted snow make range conditions very bad. However, all stockmen have good supplies of hay. No livestock losses yet (February 4).—**PAUL G. AMES**, Harding County, S. D.

REAL WINTER

We are having real winter. It started the middle of January. There is plenty of feed, so everything will come through in good shape.—**MATT CROWLEY**, Morton County, N. D.

FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT

At the end of November, 1942, the total civilian employment in federal service was 2,750,101 as compared with 2,687,093 a month before and 1,545,131 a year before. Employes in the Washington, D. C., metropolitan area totaled 284,158 at the end of November.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER